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## Tornado faces fresh setback over missiles

### MOD concern at failure of British rocket motor

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

The £10 billion Tornado aircraft programme, whose Foxhunter radar system is affected by technical and financial snags, is causing further concern because the development of a new missile for the plane has run into difficulties.

The latest embarrassment is over the British-designed air-to-surface anti-radar missile, Alarm, which is to be fitted to the ground attack version of Tornado.

The rocket motor for the missile is not functioning properly and more work and money is needed to put it right. It could be at least a year overdue.

The Ministry of Defence is under increasing pressure from the RAF and from the Saudi Arabian Government, which is buying the air defence Tornado with Foxhunter and the ground attack version with Alarm.

The setbacks in the Tornado programme, costing more than Trident, have given new headlines to the Government which only three months ago had to scrap the £1 billion Nimrod airborne early warning aircraft in favour of the American AEW.

The motor for Alarm is being developed under sub-contract to British Aerospace by the Royal Ordnance factory at Westcott, in Buckinghamshire, which employs 500 people.

The Government decided to go for the British missile in

July 1983, despite strong competition from the American high-speed anti-radar equivalent (Harm) which was cheaper and would have been available to the RAF about a year earlier than Alarm.

The order was for 700 Alarm missiles at a cost of about £250 million, for service this year.

The Government received widespread praise for buying British. The order was expected to safeguard more than

**Radar snags**.....2

3,000 jobs. It was recognized to be a political decision. The Prime Minister firmly backed the buy British policy.

When the Saudis decided to buy 72 Tornados in 1985, 48 of which were to be the ground attack version, they also ordered the Alarm missiles.

But with the problems facing Alarm, which is supposed to be on a fixed price, the Ministry of Defence is not discounting the possibility of buying the American Harm after all.

British Aerospace and Marconi Space and Defence systems are developing the "front end" electronics and sources yesterday said that the work had gone well. But without a decent rocket motor, it could not be put into service.

In February British Aerospace began "very delicate" discussions with the Ministry of Defence to renegotiate the contract. As the fault lay with the Government-owned Royal Ordnance factory, the ministry had little choice.

However, British Aerospace was at that time bidding to buy all the Royal Ordnance factories which were up for sale and on Thursday it was announced that the firm's offer of £190 million had been accepted.

Last night British Aerospace officials said they were not sure how the purchase of the Royal Ordnance factory, including the one at Westcott, would affect the Alarm contract.

The Westcott plant, which is working hard to iron out the technical problems with the rocket motor, called Nut-hatch, has given British Aerospace some lower performance motors so that test firings could be carried out.

Concern over the Nut-hatch rocket motor has forced British Aerospace to turn to a West German company, Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm, to look into the possibility of an alternative, as an insurance policy.

But the West German rocket motor would be at an earlier stage of development and Whitehall sources admit that if the problems with Nut-hatch continue, there is still one other option - to buy the American Harm system which was rejected in 1983.

One key factor here, however, is that Harm missiles were fired during the American raid on Libya last year, and they did not work. It is also feared that the Libyans may have handed over one of the missiles to the Russians. The Americans are adapting the Harm missile.

## Souvenir hunters thwarted

### No price too high for royal jewellery

From Alan Hamilton  
Geneva

No memento was too small and no price too high as the souvenir hunters picked over the personal effects of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor on the second day of Sotheby's Geneva auction yesterday. Catalogue estimates were again left far behind as European and American bidders fought over the humble items with as much fervour as they did for the glittering set piece jewellery on the first day.

Again, historic association was all. The Duchess's plain platinum wedding ring, inscribed "to Wallis from David", valued at £600, fetched £74,073 from a private buyer. Her two previous wedding rings and that of her parents went for £10,288. The Duke's gold pipe-cleaner made £12,000, while even a pearl handle broken from a handbag went for £18,500.

One of the highest prices of the second day, £370,368, was paid by a private collector for the Duchess's gold handbag suite of powder compacts and pill box. One of the smallest items, a silver vest case inscribed "to David from his brother Harry", and with a scrap value of little more than £5, made £12,346.

Among the most sought-after lots were a set of miniature framed photographs. One of Queen Victoria, inscribed "from great-grandmother VRI 24 May 1899" went to an American buyer for £205,760. Several others, including one of the Windsors bathing in the sea, were bought by the London Hilton Hotel for between £120,000 and £200,000 each.

It is questionable whether the Windsors would have relished being present at the sale of their own jewellery. Cafe society has become vulgar with money and reckless in its pursuit of souvenirs.

The last tangible remnants



The top bidder, Mr Tsuneo Tagaki, after he paid £1,812,500 for a 31-carat diamond ring belonging to the late Duchess of Windsor at Sotheby's sale of the Windsor jewels in Geneva.

of a relationship which the Americans perceive as a great romance and the British as a bit of a rum business, have been split and scattered throughout the world to dealers, private collectors, and actresses who sometimes see themselves as more queenly than Wallis Simpson ever did.

The £20,683,621 fetched by the Windsor jewels on the first day of the sale is at least five times their intrinsic worth as gems.

With the exception of Miss Elizabeth Taylor, who bid

## Britain to lean on Japanese over fair trade

By Colin Narborough

Mr Michael Howard, Minister for Consumer and Corporate Affairs, flies to Japan today with a brief to talk tough with Tokyo about trade and about market access.

But he will seek to avoid jeopardising Britain's future as one of the world's leading financial centres.

The Government was yesterday trying to tone down any suggestion that Mr Howard was to deliver an ultimatum to the Japanese or that Britain was about to embark on a trade war.

As Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, put it: "We're just not interested in trade wars." Mr Howard said that he would be armed with more possible deterrents than have been made public. Declining to give details, he said the undisclosed measures were in the trade field, not in financial services.

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, has given what Whitehall regards as positive signals on Cable and Wireless but he still faces opposition from some members of his government as well as strong political lobbies.

Japanese efforts to prevent the British telecommunications group from a taking a 20 per cent stake in a consortium bidding for part of Japan's lucrative international telephone market, generated anger in the Commons last week over the persistent top-downness of Anglo-Japanese trade.

On Thursday, the Cabinet brought forward powers to bar foreign banks and insurance firms from the City if British companies are denied access abroad.

About 29 Japanese banks operate in Britain, nine insurance companies and 58 securities houses, compared to only five British banks and eight securities firms with Japanese licences. Japan's trade surplus with Britain last year was £3.7 billion.

Britain seeks "general reciprocity", Mr Howard said, and the removal of artificial barriers. A long-awaited letter

of reply to Mrs Thatcher from Mr Nakasone, received on Thursday, is seen as still offering hope of a positive outcome to the C&W issue, which Britain sees as a test case of Tokyo's intentions.

Mr Nakasone wrote that he welcomed foreign participation in the consortium bidding for a telecommunications licence to "the extent permitted in law." This allows up to a third of shares to be foreign-owned. C&W has turned down an offer of a 5 per cent stake as insufficient.

Downing Street, which interprets the letter as leaving open the C&W question, emphasized that Mr Howard will be in Tokyo to pressure the Japanese but not to deliver deadlines.

Mr Howard said that he wanted to improve British access to the Tokyo Stock

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Exchange and sign a memorandum of understanding on information exchange to help prevent securities fraud. This would be similar to the accord reached last year with the Americans.

He would be expecting a "positive" response on access to the Tokyo Stock Exchange by the next half-yearly meeting in London of senior Treasury officials in May or June.

C&W would also figure in his talks, which include a meeting with the arch-opponent of the British firm's bid, Mr Shunjiro Karasawa, the Japanese Post and Telecommunications Minister. Here Britain was looking for what Mr Howard describes as a "fair crack of the whip" although it was up to the company to say what was acceptable.

C&W was yesterday studying the latest proposals from the Japanese but they clearly did not go far enough to meet the firm's hopes of a big stake.

## Top press awards for Times men

The Times has won two major British Press Awards for 1986. Bryan Appleyard has been named General Feature Writer of the Year for the "scatological, quizzical quality" of his work.

Simon Barnes is Sports Journalist of the Year for writing well, amusingly and to the point.

Awards list, page 2  
Profile, page 27

## Airbus boost

Europe's Airbus consortium has won a £1.6 billion order from Northwest Airlines of the US for 20 A340 long-range passenger jets.

## Bass bid

Bass, the brewing and leisure group, has made an agreed bid worth £94.8 million for Horizon Travel.....Page 21

## Portfolio Gold

- There is £12,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio competition; the £8,000 weekly prize and the daily £4,000.
- Yesterday's £4,000 prize was shared by two readers. Details, page 3.
- Portfolio list, page 25; weekly check, page 33.

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## Telecom share investigation MP faces his constituents

By Peter Davenport

Mr Keith Best, the Conservative MP under investigation by the Director of Public Prosecutions for the multiple purchase of British Telecom shares, is to face his constituency officials today to explain his actions.

Eighty members of the executive council of the Isle of Anglesy Conservative Association have been summoned to a special two hour meeting to question the MP.

Throughout yesterday, officials of the association determinedly maintained a public show of support for the barrister who has been the island's MP for eight years. But privately, some admitted their dismay and voiced concern that the MP's actions could lose the party the seat it took more than a century to win.

One member of the association said yesterday: "I too

bought shares in British Telecom and like everyone else I knew the legal limit. Mr Best is an intelligent man, he doesn't need the money and, frankly, his explanation so far doesn't wash."

Earlier this week, Scotland Yard confirmed that its Fraud Squad had begun an investigation after the MP admitted obtaining 4,800 BT shares, six times more than the legal limit for any one person.

Mr Best, in a statement, said that at the time of making the applications, each one accompanied by a cheque drawn on an account in his name and signed by him, he had not considered that he was acting improperly.

His admission led to immediate demands for his resignation from Labour and Alliance MPs and there were also calls for his prosecution. The issue has put the politi-

cal future of Mr Best at risk. If he is successfully prosecuted, he may have no option other than to resign and Conservative workers on the island, which was a safe Labour seat for 30 years before Mr Best's victory in 1979, fear his actions may lose them the next election whoever stands.

Mr Best, whose father was a former mayor of Brighton, will face the executive council in the association's offices on the first floor above a bank in the small town of Llangefni. He was expected at his three storey terraced home in Holyhead on the island last night.

Yesterday Mr Best's agent, Mrs Susan Gillett, was refusing to see visiting journalists and insisted on conducting interviews by way of a security intercom at the association offices.

It has been a big shock to everyone but the general feel-

## Alliance surge continues

By Nicholas Wood  
Political Reporter

Fresh evidence that the Alliance has overhauled Labour among the electorate came last night in a new opinion poll.

A Gallup survey of 9,000 voters ranked the parties as Conservatives 36.7 per cent, the Alliance 31.8 per cent and Labour 29.6 per cent.

The poll, carried out for BBC Newsnight before Mrs Thatcher's trip to Moscow and Mr Neil Kinnock's visit to Washington, shows that in March, the Alliance gained 5.2 per cent, while the Tories

dipped 1 per cent and Labour 4.1 per cent.

Because of its large sample size and wide spread of polling points, the Gallup 9,000 survey is regarded as an unusually reliable barometer of public opinion. This is the first time it has put Labour in third place since Mr Kinnock took over the reins of his party in 1983, a finding that confirms two other recent polls and will come as gloomy news for the Labour leader.

The polls are unlikely, however, to fuel election fever which was already on the wane after the Alliance was

shown making headway. According to the Gallup figures, Mrs Thatcher would be left 12 short of an overall Commons majority.

But because Labour appears to be doing "considerably worse" in the key marginals it must win to gain power, the picture is much less bleak for the Conservatives.

Taking this into account, Gallup calculates that the most likely outcome is a Government overall majority of 58, with the Conservatives winning 354 seats, Labour 231, the Alliance 42 and others 23.

## Big concession to China by Kremlin

From Robert Grieves, Peking

The Soviet Union, in what is regarded here as a big concession, has agreed to discuss the obstacles that stand in the way of normalizing its relations with China. Mr Qian Qichen, the Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister, said yesterday.

At a news conference held in the Great Hall of the People Mr Qian also said that China will normalize its relations with five East bloc countries - Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Bulgaria - when Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister and acting Communist Party chief, visits them in June.

In addition, Mr Li Peng, one of China's five Vice Premiers, is scheduled to visit Moscow in May. But his visit, said Mr Qian, "will not raise the level of Sino-Soviet relations."

Mr Li will visit the Soviet capital as head of a Chinese delegation participating in a meeting between the two countries on technological, economic and trade cooperation, according to Mr Qian.



Mr Qian Qichen announcing the Moscow overtures

Asked if Mr Li would meet Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, Mr Qian replied: "The agenda for the coming meeting has not yet been made."

Soviet officials in Peking could not be reached for immediate comment. In the past few months representatives of the Soviet Embassy here have expressed their anxiety over the current state of Sino-Soviet relations.

Some have said they hoped China was now embarked on a course of turning toward Moscow. But others have expressed doubt over the durability of such overtures. "We have long since learned that nothing is permanent in Chinese diplomacy," a Soviet diplomat said.

Mr Qian was careful to emphasize yesterday that Peking at present has no plans to raise the level of Sino-Soviet consultations above the vice-ministerial level. "There is no plan for Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian to visit the Soviet Union this year," Mr Qian said. "As for when his (Mr Wu's) visit will take place, it is difficult to say now."

Mr Qian said that recently the Soviet Union expressed "agreement to discuss" the questions of obstacles to normalized relations. "I hope it is a good omen."

In recent years Peking has steadfastly maintained that there are three obstacles to improved relations: Soviet support for the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia; the Soviet military build-up along the Amur-Ussuri border area between the two countries; and the Soviet invasion and occupation of Afghanistan.

## Aldanti shares Grand National spotlight

By Ian Smith

The loudest cheers this Grand National day will erupt from an expected 50,000 crowd while jockeys in the premier steeplechase event are still in the changing rooms preparing for the big race.

The most poignant moment in the Grand National's 149-year history will arrive as Aldanti strides into the winner's enclosure at Aintree carrying the jockey who rode

him to victory six years ago, Bob Champion.

Aldanti came from nowhere to win while Champion had returned from a battle with cancer. In 1981 only the most optimistic punters backed Aldanti; today an estimated £500,000 is riding on their 250-mile journey to raise funds for medical research.

Fence-by fence guide, page 37  
Fitness battle, page 40

"Doubtless the (pension) fund that managed a return of 62.2% last year will soon leak its own identity"

D. Telegraph 31.3.87

"Here we are"

| Years   | Growth of Fund | Rank |
|---------|----------------|------|
| 4 Years | 37.0%          | 1st  |
| 3 Years | 34.2%          | 2nd  |
| 2 Years | 40.0%          | 1st  |
| 1 Year  | 62.2%          | 1st  |

Source: W.M. Performance Survey

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## NEWS SUMMARY

## Corporal killed in IRA ambush

An off-duty corporal of the Ulster Defence Regiment was shot dead in front of his cousin, aged 12, yesterday when the Provisional IRA ambushed him as he arrived for work (Richard Ford writes).

Mr Thomas Oldman, a single man aged 39, was shot by three masked Provisionals outside the hardware shop he managed at Ederny, Co Fermanagh.

The attack occurred less than 12 hours after the outlawed "loyalist" Ulster Volunteer Force killed a member of the Provisional IRA in front of his wife and their daughter, aged two weeks. Mr Lawrence Marley, aged 41, was tricked into opening the door of his home in the Ardoyne area of north Belfast on Thursday night.

## Scientist inquest

An inquest into the death of Mr David Sands, a computer expert who was the latest in a string of mysterious fatalities involving defence scientists, was opened and adjourned at Basingstoke yesterday.

Mr Sands, aged 36, died when his car crashed into a disused restaurant on Monday and burst into flames. The coroner said the precise cause of the death had not yet been determined.

## Colliery death

Sacks of newly delivered coal are being examined after the discovery of the partly dismembered body of a teenage miner.

The body of Mr Lee White was found in the coal preparation plant at Kiverton Park colliery, near Sheffield, where he had been stacking coal. It is believed that Mr White, aged 19, of Haxley Close, Woodhouse, near Sheffield, became trapped in a conveyor belt.

## Malta frees Britons

Seventeen British technicians prevented from leaving Malta while police investigated a conference centre fire fled home yesterday and another three Britons and an American were also given permission to leave.

Two other Britons also working for Daihatsu, the car company, have been told to remain.

The technicians, from the Cambridge-based company, Laserpoint, were taking part in the launch of a new car when fire broke out.

Police in Malta launched an investigation into one report that the fire, which badly damaged the building, was started by a laser, but an examining magistrate yesterday found no cause for any action against the technicians.

## Sculpture cast veto

Henry Moore, who died last August aged 88, directed in his will, published yesterday, that no further casts of his sculptures be made.

He left estate valued at £1,264,693 net, the bulk of which goes to his wife.

His Italian house, all his copyrights, archives, proofs and unfinished drawings were left to the Henry Moore Foundation which he established in 1977 to help young sculptors and fund art projects.



## Art theft false alarm

An international police hunt was called off yesterday when embarrassed officials of the National Trust discovered that a £500,000 painting "stolen" from an historic home had been taken away four months ago for cleaning and restoration (Craig Seaton writes).

The 12in by 16in painting of a young Dominican monk, by Lorenzo Lotto, was reported stolen on Thursday after the reopening of Upton House, at Tysoe, near Edge Hill, Warwickshire. It was 15 hours before the trust realized what had happened to the painting.

## Shooting charges

A man accused of attempting to murder two Securicor guards during a shooting incident outside a South Kensington bank was remanded in custody for a week yesterday at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court.

Peter Colson, a car salesman aged 44, of Poynton Road, Tottenham, north London, was charged with attempting to murder Mr Thomas Bick, aged 50, who is being treated at St Stephen's Hospital, Fulham, for a gunshot wound to the thigh, and Mr David Campbell, aged 27, on April 1. He is also accused of attempted robbery.

## Heart-lung implants 'threatened by cutbacks'

By Jill Sherman  
Social Services  
Correspondent

The heart-lung transplant programme at Harefield Hospital, west London, could be jeopardized if proposals to cut 50 per cent of the hospital's medical beds are accepted, doctors claimed yesterday.

Hillingdon District Health Authority will vote on Tuesday whether to close temporarily the 21-bed chest ward at Harefield. The move would leave only six beds for patients with complicated chest diseases such as lung cancer.

The proposal is one of a series of measures designed to cut costs in a district where overspending would otherwise reach £2.8 million by the end of next year.

Other measures include closing a 23-bed gynaecological ward at Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, and extending the temporary closure of 57 beds in two surgical wards at Mount Vernon and Hillingdon hospitals.

They also warned that the long-term absence of sufficient beds for chest medicine could mean that the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Nursing would have to withdraw recognition of senior medical and nursing posts, which would threaten the future viability of the hospital.

"If they close half the medical beds it must inevitably lead to the total closure of Harefield", Dr Ronald Pridie, chairman of the hospital's medical staff committee, said.

"Twenty medical beds will not be enough, so the cardiology beds will also be threatened. It is not just the chest physicians who are concerned. Cardiologists need to be able to assess the function of the lungs, so they rely on information from investigations carried out by the chest physicians."

But Mr Michael Bellamy, general manager of Hillingdon district, denied that the heart-lung transplant programme would be affected.

"We have agreed to provide six thoracic medicine beds and we have made it clear that specialist support will be available," he said.

"We will still have medical expertise available. The chest physicians will have access to six beds and they will be part of the team."

Mr Bellamy said that new hospitals in the region would be expected to take up some of the district's workload.

The closures were partly necessary because the heart-lung transplant programme, although regionally funded, had been expanded at the expense of other services.

## Motorways crash barrier report warns of defects

By Paul Valley and Nick Rufford

The Government is playing down a transport report which reveals that many crash barriers along 1,330 miles of motorways are defective.

The report, by the Transport Road and Research Laboratory (TRRL) was written more than a year ago, before an accident on the M4 last June in which 13 people died when a barrier collapsed and a van crossed the central reservation into the path of oncoming vehicles.

Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for Transport, said yesterday in a written Parliamentary answer: "Research has shown that the safety fences generally perform well and I have no reason to believe that they are not constructed generally to a satisfactory standard."

He said that a reliable estimate of the amount of fencing which was sub-standard could not be made, and that a sample inspection of no more than 150 miles of crash barriers would be carried out this year.

Mr Andrew Jarvis, of Coulsdon, south London, whose daughter, Donna, aged 20, was killed in the M4 accident, near Maidenhead, Berkshire, accused the Government of perpetrating a conspiracy of silence over the condition of motorway crash barriers. His MP, Sir William Clark, Conservative member for Croydon South, is to seek a public inquiry into the issue.

The report, by Mr M.D. Macdonald, of the TRRL, which was delivered to the annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board in Washington last January, said: "Results of investigations at scenes of motorway accidents in which safety fences have received severe impacts have shown that where concrete is used for post footings, the footings are not always made to the correct standard."

"Footings are frequently twice the correct diameter and half the required depth."

Such investigations are made at the scene of all motorway accidents. Faulty footings had been found at many sites, he said.

Inadequate foundations reduced the efficacy of the barrier, which is designed to transfer the impact of a crash from the vehicle to the fence. Instead of bending, many posts were simply torn from the ground and the barriers collapsed uselessly.

A senior TRRL official said yesterday that the evidence had been passed on to the Engineering Intelligence Unit at the Ministry of Transport, which was conducting its own investigation.

Mr Jarvis said yesterday that he was distressed to learn that the Government had known of the problem long before the M4 accident. "I am very upset. There is definitely a conspiracy of silence. I said at the inquest that it seemed like a cover up. Now I'm convinced that it is."

He said that the department had written to him twice and implied that he did not understand how crash barriers worked.

Crash barriers were first introduced on British motorways in the 1960s, designed to contain vehicles safely within their own carriageway by absorbing any impact. In 1976 new safety regulations were introduced which included increasing foundation depths by 58 per cent.

Mr John Glanville, a consultant highway engineer, who was an independent witness at the excavation of the M4 crash site, said: "Five posts were excavated in the area adjacent to the crash."

"One broke off while being excavated, which showed how weak it was. Another had been fixed at the side of the concrete mounting instead of in the middle, and then concrete had been poured around the top to make it look all right. Two were fixed in concrete of unacceptably poor quality."

The Department of Transport said yesterday that an internal investigation into the M4 accident was being carried out, but the report would not be published.

Nick Rufford is a staff writer for New Civil Engineer magazine.



Two participants at the International Clown Convention at Bognor Regis discussing their art yesterday. About 150 clowns will attend the meeting (Photograph: Nick Rogers).

## Inquiry into fraud involves job agency

By Ronald Faux  
Employment Affairs  
Correspondent

Police in South Wales confirmed yesterday that a fraud squad investigation had begun involving the Neath Development Partnership, a job-creating agency in West Glamorgan which receives government funding of more than £2 million a year.

The investigation will be into a complaint against two union officers who are alleged to have used their position on the area manpower board for Dyfed and West Glamorgan to seek improper payments.

Mr George Griffiths, acting chairman of the partnership and chief executive of Neith Borough Council, said yesterday that the partnership ranked among the most successful agencies of its kind in Britain. It was founded four years ago and was now giving work to 650 on projects funded by the Manpower Services Commission.

"I understand that the police are to start an investigation but we have not heard from them so far. We are happy to talk about our work with anyone who asks."

The area manpower boards are formed by employers, trade union members and local authority representatives.

## Warning to lawyers on need for haste

By Frances Gibb  
Legal Affairs Correspondent

A senior crown court judge warned lawyers yesterday to prepare their cases more quickly for trial.

Judge Michael McMillan, said at Wood Green Crown Court, north London: "Perhaps I may say this in plain terms. At long last the crown courts in London are getting their lists under control."

"This does not mean that the prosecution and defence can put things to one side and say they need not look at them for months, because the time between commitment for trial and the actual trial is becoming shorter and shorter, and so it should."

His remarks came two days after the experimental production of trial deadlines in parts of England and Wales.

They are being brought in under the Prosecution of Offences Act 1987 to tackle one of the biggest problems in the courts: the backlog of cases.

They aim to provide an incentive to lawyers to proceed as speedily as practicable. Where they fail to meet the time limit without reasonable excuse, the defendant will be released on bail, although he will still face proceedings.

Eventually it is intended to apply the deadlines across the whole of England and Wales.

## Radar snags push up Tornado costs

By Michael Evans  
Defence Correspondent

The Tornado multi-role combat aircraft programme, vital for Britain's and Nato's air defences, is the most expensive item in the Ministry of Defence budget and the cost is still mounting because of continuing problems with some of the vital equipment.

In spite of the cost, the Tornado is seen as a successful example of European collaboration.

It has been built in partnership with West Germany and Italy.

The cost to Britain to date has been more than £10 billion, with each Tornado billed today at about £17 million, compared with the initial estimate of £5 million.

The RAF ordered 385 Tornados, of which 220 are the ground attack GR1s and the rest long-range, air defence F2s and F3s.

The GR1s have all been delivered and about 73 of the air defence version will have been by the end of this year.

The problems have come with two key pieces of equipment: The Foxhunter interception radar for the F2 and F3 and the new anti-radar air-to-surface missile, Alarm, being developed for the ground attack GR1s.

Foxhunter, in particular, has been a source of considerable embarrassment and frustration for the Ministry of Defence because so far it has failed to reach the standard demanded by the RAF.

Foxhunter's problems were always lurking in the background while the crisis over the Nimrod airborne early warning aircraft was receiving so much public and parliamentary attention.

The £1 billion Nimrod was abandoned in favour of the more expensive American Awac system last December.

The air defence Tornado is an all-weather aircraft which can patrol for more than 20 hours at 350 miles from base.

It can climb to 30,000ft in under two minutes and should be able to detect targets more than 100 miles away and engage them beyond visual range.

Foxhunter, developed by GEC Avionics and Ferranti, is already six years late entering service to full RAF specifications and is reported to be running 60 per cent over budget, estimated to be more than £500 million.

The contract was awarded on a cost-plus basis, just like Nimrod.

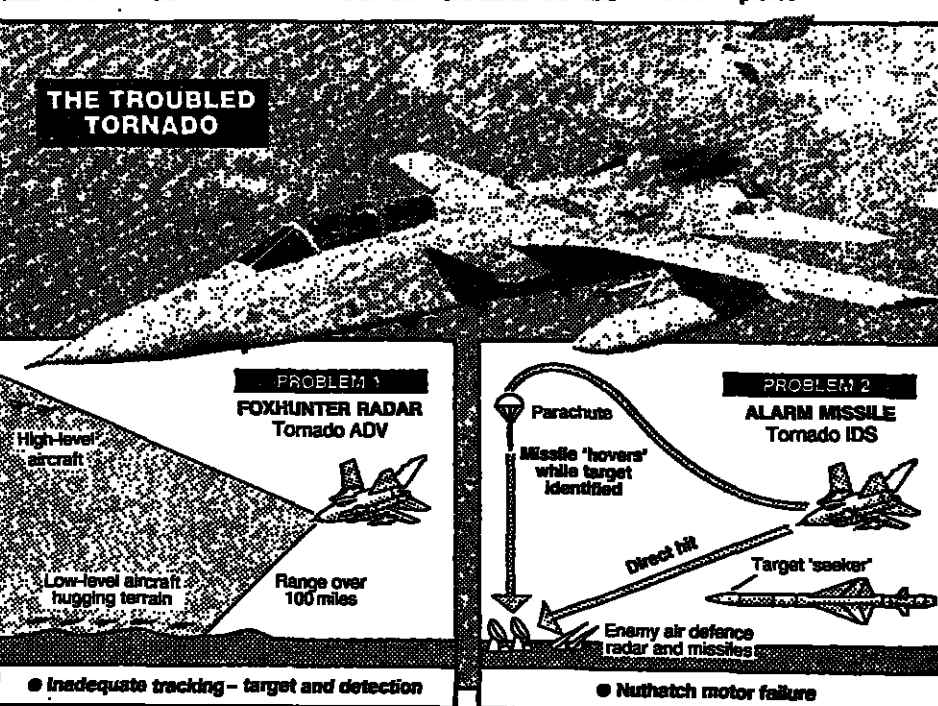
Now negotiations are under way between the Ministry of Defence and GEC to arrange a fixed-price contract.

The radar is supposed to detect mass raids at long range, whether the targets are hugging the terrain or approaching at supersonic speed at high altitude.

But the Foxhunter has had problems with tracking massed targets, just as the Nimrod AEW experienced, and with linking up to the Tornado's Skyflash missiles.

The first squadron of air defence Tornados have therefore had to be equipped with below standard radar.

Some have even left the production line with ballast in the nose because there were no radar sets available when they were completed.



## 'Secrets' series to start on BBC-2

The Royal Air Force stands to lose much of its combat air strength in the first few minutes of a war from missiles fired by friendly forces, according to an episode of Mr Duncan Campbell's *Secret Society* series for BBC Television (Our Media Correspondent writes).

The programme is among four that was cleared for transmission yesterday by the BBC.

The series is to start on April 22 on BBC-2 with a programme about the danger to privacy posed by privately operated data banks.

The following week gives details of legislation for use during national emergencies.

The most sensational allegations are expected to be those in the third programme, on radar, which claims that the £1 billion cancellation of the

Nimrod airborne early warning system was only the latest in a series of technical setbacks since 1945.

The final programme will allege that a committee of police chiefs has usurped government control over the police.

A programme about governments' abuse of secret Cabinet committees is under legal review.

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Due to the very late arrival of our current 1987 designer fur garments we are forced to sell by auction to the highest bidder at nominal reserve prices. Prohibitive costs of finance, storage and insurance regrettably has made it imperative for us to take this unprecedented action.

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## Baker attacks 'ghosts' of Alliance

The SDP/Liberal Alliance was not a political movement but a mod with no real policies, Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said last night (Sheila Gunn writes).

"He accused the parties of using the art of salesmanship but not government in trying to provide the policies to suit groups of voters."

"When, occasionally, shadowy policies can be discerned in the Alliance mists they resemble nothing more than the ghosts of Christmas past," he told his Mole Valley constituents.

Meanwhile, the Alliance boasted of by-election wins in local council elections while Mr Margaret Thatcher and Mr Neil Kinnock were "globetrotting".

Mr Baker said the Alliance was a source of considerable embarrassment and frustration for the Ministry of Defence because so far it has failed to reach the standard demanded by the RAF.

Foxhunter's problems were always lurking in the background while the crisis over the Nimrod airborne early warning aircraft was receiving so much public and parliamentary attention.

The £1 billion Nimrod was abandoned in favour of the more expensive American Awac system last December.

The air defence Tornado is an all-weather aircraft which can patrol for more than 20 hours at 350 miles from base.

It can climb to 30,000ft in under two minutes and should be able to detect targets more than 100 miles away and engage them beyond visual range.

Foxhunter, developed by GEC Avionics and Ferranti, is already six years late entering service to full RAF specifications and is reported to be running 60 per cent over budget, estimated to be more than £500 million.

The contract was awarded on a cost-plus basis, just like Nimrod.

Now negotiations are under way between the Ministry of Defence and GEC to arrange a fixed-price contract.

The radar is supposed to detect mass raids at long range, whether the targets are hugging the terrain or approaching at supersonic speed at high altitude.

But the Foxhunter has had problems with tracking massed targets, just as the Nimrod AEW experienced, and with linking up to the Tornado's Skyflash missiles.

The first squadron of air defence Tornados have therefore had to be equipped with below standard radar.

Some have even left the production line with ballast in the nose because there were no radar sets available when they were completed.

Eventually it is intended to apply the deadlines across the whole of England and Wales.

His remarks came two days after the experimental production of trial deadlines in parts of England and Wales.

They are being brought in under the Prosecution of Offences Act 1987 to tackle one of the biggest problems in the courts: the backlog of cases.

They aim to provide an incentive to lawyers to proceed as speedily as practicable. Where they fail to meet the time limit without reasonable excuse, the defendant will be released on bail, although he will still face proceedings.

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# Sister ship to make tidal trials for ferry deaths inquiry

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

A sister ship of the cross-Channel ferry, the *Herald of Free Enterprise*, which capsized at Zeebrugge four weeks ago, is to be used to carry out full-scale trials to discover what happened to the *Herald*.

This was announced yesterday at a preliminary hearing in London of the inquiry into the disaster, which is to be conducted by Mr Justice Sheen.

A spokesman for Townsend Thoresen, owners of the ferry, said after the hearing that they had received a request to make a sister ship available at Zeebrugge, so that tests could be carried out in the same tidal conditions as those in which the *Herald of Free Enterprise* capsized.

The Department of Transport said that in the trials the aim would be to create the same conditions of speed, loading and trim as existed in the *Herald of Free Enterprise*, though the bow door would be closed.

It was hoped that as the sister ship's manoeuvres were measured and filmed on video, tape light would be cast on what had happened on board the *Herald of Free Enterprise*.

The results will be used in conjunction with scale model test-tank trials and computer calculations to be conducted by British Maritime Technology of Feltham, west London, to build a full picture of how

the *Herald* behaved before the capsizing.

The Department of Transport said it was not yet clear which of the *Herald*'s two sister ships, the *Spirit of Free Enterprise* or the *Pride of Free Enterprise*, would be used.

The results of the tests are expected to be known before the inquiry starts to take evidence on April 27.

Yesterday's hearing at the Royal Courts of Justice lasted only an hour, and was devoted to questions of representation, and procedural and administrative matters.

The decision to have full-scale tests was welcomed by Mr Charles Haddon-Cave, counsel for a steering committee representing more than 300 survivors and relatives of those who died.

Mr Stephen Miller said he was representing Mr Mark Stanley, assistant boatswain of the *Herald of Free Enterprise*, separately from other members of the crew because of suggestions that he was responsible for seeing that the bow doors of the ferry were closed.

Mr Justice Sheen said that two of the questions he would want answered would be how many lives were lost, and why there were so many.

What has struck me at the moment, from what I have inevitably read in the Press and heard about, was the speed with which the ship capsized. It may be necessary

to investigate how it is that, within a comparatively short distance of harbour, so many lives were lost."

Four assessors have been appointed to assist the judge. They are:

Captain E.G. Venables, who has been a member of the Department of Transport's panel of nautical assessors for many years.

Dr Ewan Corbett, a naval architect with an international reputation. He was a Home Office assessor for technical inquiries from 1959 to 1980.

Commodore Gordon Greenfield, who is a Younger Brother of Trinity House.

Mr C.A. Sinclair, a former chief surveyor of the Salvage Association, who has worked on the salvage of roll-on roll-off vessels.

P & O, which is the parent company of Townsend Thoresen, announced yesterday that because of the imminent raising of the *Herald of Free Enterprise* at Zeebrugge it was postponing a dinner which was to have been held on board the liner *Canberra* at Southampton on Tuesday.

It was to have commemorated the involvement of P & O ships in the Falklands task force five years ago. Sir Geoffrey Stirling, chairman of P & O, said: "At this time our thoughts and preoccupations must be with the *Herald of Free Enterprise*."



Helen Aitchison, of St Mary's High School, Hull, with her prizewinning design for a self-locking letter box at the Design Against Crime award ceremony at the Savoy Hotel, London, yesterday. She won £500 for herself and £1,000 for her school (Photograph: Chris Harris).

## Policemen held after death of detective

By Stewart Tandler  
Crime Reporter

Three London policemen were last night being questioned about the murder of a south London private detective whose body was found three weeks ago slumped in a car park with £1,000 in his pocket.

The policemen were arrested yesterday morning with two members of the public, both of whom knew the dead man well, in raids by detectives based at Sydenham, south London. The five were taken to separate police stations in south London.

Scotland Yard yesterday refused to say anything about the men being held or describe the policemen, who are a detective sergeant and two detective constables.

Mr Daniel Morgan, aged 37, was found in the car park of the Golden Lion public house at Sydenham, after being attacked with a hatchet. He ran Southern Investigations in Thornton Heath, south London, and specialized in divorce and debt collection.

On the day of his death, March 10, Mr Morgan, who lived in South Norwood and was married with two children, had been drinking. Customers in the public house were alerted to the killing by screams from the car park.

During the inquiry police disclosed that he was due to be interviewed by West Yorkshire police about a fraud he had uncovered.

## Portfolio - Gold - Winnings to be spent on houses

Two readers shared yesterday's Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000.

Mrs Lenorah Gallimore, aged 60, said she was "over the moon" because she had never won anything before.

Mrs Gallimore, of Bourneville Lane, Birmingham, said she was planning to spend the money on her house, because so many things needed repairing.

Mrs Elizabeth Sheehan, aged 25, of Barton Mills, Suffolk, said she was delighted to win as she now has some extra funds for moving home.

Readers can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

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The Times  
PO Box 40  
Blackburn BB1 6AJ



Mrs Gallimore, who is delighted with her success.

## Baby crawled in blood, court told

A baby crawled around in her mother's blood before being killed herself, Bristol Crown Court was told yesterday.

Heidi Sutcliffe, aged eight months, and her mother, Mrs Jeanne Sutcliffe, aged 39, died of axe wounds at their home in the Butts, Westbury, Wiltshire, last April.

Heather Arnold, aged 50, a mathematics teacher, of Orchard Road, Westbury, denies murdering Mrs Sutcliffe, the wife of Mr Paul Sutcliffe, aged 45, a teacher colleague, and the baby.

Yesterday, the court was told that blood on the knee of the baby's romper suit was that of her mother and that an axe which police alleged recovered from Mrs Arnold was almost certainly the murder weapon.

Dr John Whiteside, a Home Office biologist, said: "There was blood all round the room and the blood on the baby's knee must have been caused by crawling around."

"Both bodies were laid out side by side quite peacefully," Dr Whiteside said he examined Mrs Arnold's sweater and a pair of trousers which she wore on the day of the killing. There were no traces of blood on either garment.

"It is likely the killer would have had blood-stained clothes. It is easy to get fresh blood washed off," he said. He added that the axe head

had traces of blood, but he thought it had been washed and it was impossible to determine the blood group.

Dr John Fox, a Home Office chemist, told the court that the axe was almost certainly the murder weapon.

Red paint fragments taken from Mrs Sutcliffe's hair and cardigan and the carpet beneath the bodies matched the paint on it.

He said a distinctive mix of red paint and lacquer found in the fragments matched an unusual blob caused during manufacture of the axe.

He said: "The axe almost certainly was the murder weapon. Taken in conjunction with the blood I think that this must have been the axe used in the murder."

Dr Fox said he had analysed saw marks on the axe handle and concluded that they could have been caused by a big bow saw found in Mrs Arnold's garage. Burn marks on the handle could have been left by a calor gas stove found at the house.

The trial was halted during the afternoon for legal arguments.

Mr Justice Henry sent the jury home for the rest of the day while the prosecution and defence argued over whether some of the evidence could be admitted.

The trial will resume on Monday.

## Dog fights 'a booming sport'

Dog fighting, badger baiting and cock fighting are Britain's boom sports, RSPCA inspectors disclosed yesterday.

Inspectors have been threatened with "knee cappings". National Park vehicles have had their tyres slashed and police are hunting a gang who left a badger's severed head next to a park warden's van near Brecon.

The RSPCA told a press conference in Plymouth, one of the main centres for these sports, that inspectors were on the trail of a wealthy couple who organized contests at their mansion.

Inspector John Gordon, the RSPCA co-ordinator on dog fighting, badger baiting and cock fighting, spoke of "civilized" weekends at the couple's house where the tea party atmosphere was a cover for fights in specially-constructed pits.

Other cases included £10,000 changing hands for a share in a top fighting dog and a man mortgaging his house to get money for a bet on a dog fight.

Miss Janet Fookes, Conservative MP for Plymouth Drake, and a former RSPCA chairman, said bloodlust and betting produced a "lethal combination". She joined an RSPCA appeal to the public to watch out for dog fights.

## Credit companies step up customer checks

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Credit companies are doing more checks on people's creditworthiness, the latest figures from the Registry Trust, the non-profit making company which runs the Registry of County Court Judgements, reveal.

Although last year was the first full year in which the trust ran the registry, there was a "marked increase in the number of searches carried out", it says.

In 1986 they totalled 28,869, more than double the previous year.

Mr Malcolm Hurston, the trust chairman, said the figures showed a growing interest in the registry's work which "provides a bulwark in the national system of credit".

"Both granters and consumers of credit recognize that the presence of a judgement on the register should be a major

determinant of who gets credit."

At present four main credit reference agencies purchase the registry's output. For a debt to be registered, there has to be an outstanding balance of more than £10 a month after the date of judgement.

In 1986 11,828 judgements were cancelled and a further 52,994 noted as having been satisfied.

Part of the increase in requests for searches by the public and companies was due to the register becoming better known.

The register contains information about county court debts registered during the past six years. It is on public record and anyone may ask for a search on any name and address by post (£2) or in person (£1).

## Law centre chief quits in race rumpus

The secretary of a Wolverhampton law centre has resigned after claiming that the black members of its management committee ordered their white colleagues to undergo racial awareness retraining (Craig Seton writes).

Mr Derrick Fysh, who has been secretary of the Bell Street Law Centre for five years, said that certain activists were turning the centre into a political football.

The final straw for him had come when the retraining order was put forward by a mainly black anti-racist working party.

There has been intense pressure for the centre to become involved in the controversy over the death of Mr Clinton McCurvin, aged 24, a Wolverhampton Afro-Caribbean who died of asphyxia during a struggle with two police officers five weeks ago.

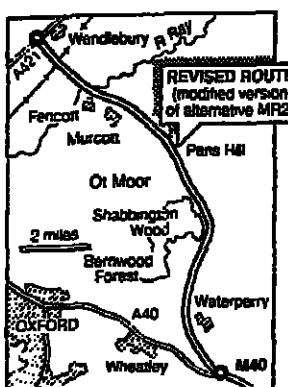
## M40 plan to save butterflies

By Rodney Cowton  
Transport Correspondent

The Department of Transport has made more concessions to the butterflies of Oxfordshire in its search for a route for the M40 which does not enrage the environmentalists.

A modified route for the road north-east of the city of Oxford was put forward yesterday by Mr Peter Bottomley, minister responsible for roads and traffic. The route is part of a scheme to link the M40, from London, to the M42 south of Birmingham.

The department has already abandoned one route because of environmental objections which included concern that it would reduce the habitat of the purple emperor and other butterflies.



environmental impact of the motorway.

The route has been moved away from Watlington and Watlington to reduce the impact on these villages.

Another shift of the route to preserve agricultural land near Shabbington Wood would mean that the motorway would now affect a site of special scientific interest.

However, alternative land would be made available which would mean an increased area of suitable habitat for the "important butterfly population".

The new proposals will be open to objection, and Mr Bottomley said a public inquiry was likely to be required. He hoped to have the whole of the M40 extension open by the end of 1990.

## Soldier tells of fight that led to death

A soldier accused of murdering his lover's husband yesterday described the fight that led to the man's death.

Lance-Corporal Jack Walton told the Central Criminal Court that he wanted to see Mr Michael Joannou "face to face".

He said: "I wanted to

explain I would cease to see his wife if he would guarantee to stop harassing my family".

He waited for Mr Joannou outside his home in Thames Ditton, Surrey. When he arrived, Mr Joannou lashed him with a long key chain which wrapped around his neck.

Lance-Corporal Walton

said he used a canvas belt to fight back and the two men fell to the ground with the belt round the other man's neck.

When he left he said he had no idea that the man was either dead or near death. He had felt his pulse.

Lance-Corporal Walton, aged 28, a member of the Life

Guards, denies murdering Mr Joannou, aged 41, last April.

Mrs Marion Joannou, aged 35, denies giving police false information about her husband's killing and impeding an arrest.

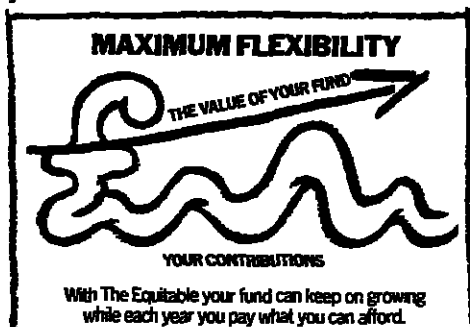
The trial continues on Monday.

## Damages for counsellor

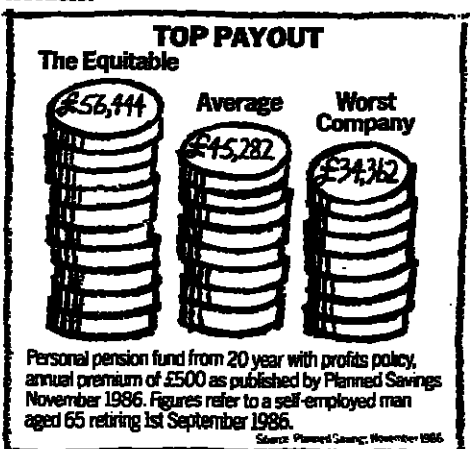
Mrs Alice Rowland, aged 67, of Yew Tree Drive, Caterham, Surrey, who spent years helping alcoholics was awarded £21,151 damages and interest in the High Court yesterday. The injuries she suffered in a car collision meant she spent less time counselling people.

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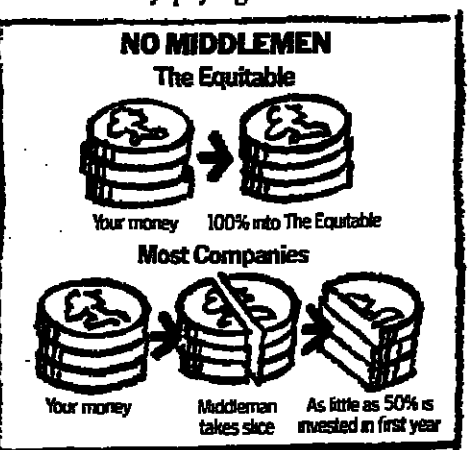


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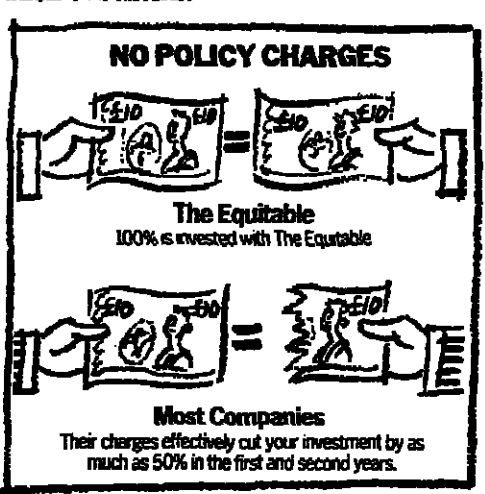
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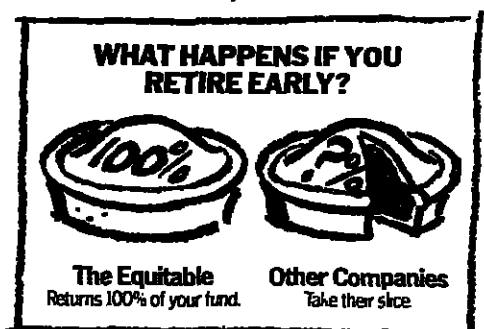
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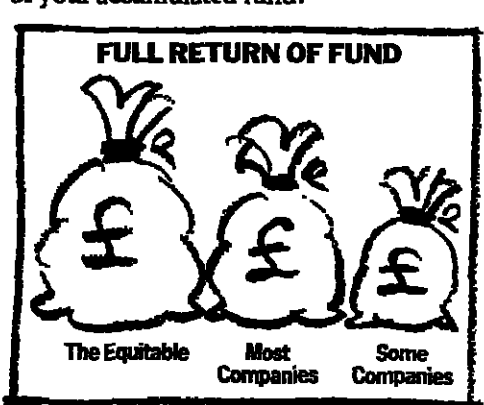
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**By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent**

In the private sector, starts were down 3 per cent on the previous three months, but 9 per cent higher than a year earlier, while completions

Only in three regions — Northern Ireland, northern England, and Yorkshire and Humberside — does the average property now cost below the £30,000 level set for tax relief.



One thousand dogs up to three years old, most of them unwanted pets, are seen as potential recruits, but only about 300 make the grade. German shepherds, rottweilers, doberman pinschers, labradors and spaniels are chosen for various roles and all must be bold, although not necessarily aggressive.

The 44 school staff under Captain Peter Heyworth are responsible for training the handlers as well as the dogs

The judge said he thought the summonses were taken

The Taylors' lawyers gave the court an undertaking that no further steps would be taken to pursue the private prosecution until the question of an appeal to the House of Lords had been considered.

production and three big revivals had been cancelled. The grant for 1987-88 is £6,748,000, an increase of 2.6 per cent. Although there were funding difficulties, last year had been the company's best for five years with an average paying audience of 87 per cent of capacity and an expected £4 million from box office receipts.

All 6,000 main and sub-post office branches will eventually be equipped with those computers during the next seven years.

Mr Steve Pearce, of the Post Office, said: "For some reason people want to believe that

Other innovations include fast service points, electronic stamp machines at each of the

**If the necessary legislation is achieved, customers may soon be able to buy bus and rail tickets over the counter.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_



**The Mortgage Corporation**  
MAKING MORTGAGES HAPPEN

The Prescription (Scotland) Bill was read a second time. It would amend the Prescription and Limitation (Scotland) Act on insolvency rules.

James Barr, aged 31, of Wessex Road, Didcot, Oxfordshire, who admitted causing the pups unnecessary suffering, was also ordered by Didcot magistrates to do 180 hours' community service.

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## WORLD SUMMARY

## Lebanon food aid lorry set on fire

Beirut (Reuters) — A lorry carrying 16 tonnes of emergency food provided by Saudi Arabia for Beirut's beleaguered Palestinians was set on fire yesterday when fighting broke out at the Chatila refugee camp, according to witnesses. They said that Syrian observers supervising the relief operation took cover as sniper bullets hit the blazing vehicle. Palestinian guerrillas and Shia Muslim Amal militiamen exchanged machine-gun and mortar fire around the camp. At least two children were reported killed and seven people wounded, according to Palestinian sources. Chatila and the nearby Bourj al-Barajneh camp, as well as Palestinian refugee settlements in southern Lebanon, have been besieged by Amal for more than five months.

## Moscow N-test

Moscow — The Soviet Union yesterday carried out its third nuclear test since ending its unilateral moratorium in February (A Correspondent writes). The blast took place at the test site in Semipalatinsk in the Soviet Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan in the early hours of the morning. Like the first and second tests, the third blast, according to Tass, had a yield within the limits of the US-Soviet threshold test ban treaty of 1974.

## Heidnik suicide bid

Philadelphia (AP) — Gary Heidnik, facing a murder charge after police found half-naked women flogged in his basement and parts of bodies in his freezer, tried to hang himself on Thursday night in his shower, according to prison authorities. He was reported to be in good condition despite the suicide attempt.

The attempt was one of several Heidnik has made over the years, according to his younger brother, who said in an interview in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* yesterday that they were both raised in an atmosphere of violence and racism.

## Natal car bombing

Johannesburg — A car bomb exploded outside a shopping centre in the Natal town of Newcastle yesterday, slightly injuring three people (Michael Horsby writes). According to the Government's Bureau of Information, a four-year-old white girl received light head wounds and a white woman suffered a burst eardrum. A black man was wounded in the right thigh in the explosion, caused by a limpet mine.

## Finnish Cabinet quits

Helsinki (Reuters) — Mr Kalevi Sorsa, left, the Finnish Social Democrat Prime Minister and his centre-left majority government resigned yesterday, clearing the way for the Conservatives to return after 21 years. The resignation followed the general election of March 15-16 when the Conservatives won nine more seats for a total of 53 in the 200-seat chamber. The outgoing government will stay on as caretakers.

## Lange's road accident

Wellington — Mr David Lange, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, is under pressure to use a chauffeur at all times after he struck and injured a pedestrian while driving his own car in Wellington on Thursday night (Richard Long writes). After first refusing to comment, Mr Lange said last night that he had been driving to a late-night service station for a packet of razor blades.

Dr Edisson Zvobgo, the Minister of Justice and Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, has affirmed that the removal of the 20 seats in the 100-

## Congress defeat hamstrings the White House

From Christopher Thomas Washington

President Reagan's shattering defeat in Congress over an \$88 billion (\$55 billion) Highway Bill was seen yesterday as a political disaster which could hamper his recovery from the Iran-Contra fiasco.

But Democratic leaders, anxious to avoid accusations of kicking a man when he is down, effusively praised the President for his courage in attempting to block a measure that he knew was immensely popular throughout the country.

Senator Edward Kennedy, one of Mr Reagan's staunchest opponents, said the President had "played the game well" and was by no means crippled by his defeat. Other Demo-

cratic leaders said the President had stored up credits which would help in other fights with Congress.

The outcome is certain to increase the stature of Mr Howard Baker, the new White House Chief of Staff, who advised Mr Reagan from the outset not to pick a fight over the Bill. As a former Senate Republican leader, he is uniquely qualified to advise Mr Reagan on how to avoid humiliating defeats at the hands of Congress. On this occasion, however, Mr Reagan chose to ignore the advice.

Mr Reagan clearly intends to follow a veto strategy in his final 21 months in office. Before Thursday's defeat he had been defeated only seven times on legislation he vetoed but he had always enjoyed a

Republican majority in the Senate. Democrats now control both chambers.

Thirteen Republican senators voted against Mr Reagan on Thursday, despite an extraordinary personal appeal he issued to them in a room off the Senate chamber. "I beg

## US welfare overhaul

Washington — In its first move towards a comprehensive overhaul of the American welfare system, the Senate has voted 99 to 0 to authorize the Federal Government to pay bonuses to states that move long-term welfare recipients into jobs in private industry (Christopher Thomas writes).

The Bill was introduced by Senator Edward Kennedy, a liberal Democrat. There is

you to vote with me on this," he said, a remark widely interpreted yesterday as the words of a desperate man struggling to regain his old stature.

Most of Mr Reagan's advisers warned him against a major confrontation with Congress over such a popular bill.

Republican Congressmen were faced with the stark choice of voting against their President or against a Bill that would bring new roads, bridges and commuter trains to their constituencies. "The President does not face reelection in 1988, but I do," one Republican said.

Earlier this year Mr Reagan was also defeated on a Clean-Water Bill, which he had vetoed. But he chose not to make a septic battle over the measure. A senior White House adviser said yesterday: "He defined the battlefield and he picked one that he could not win on. It proves that this guy's his own man, that he still makes up his own mind." The final vote was 67

to 33, just enough to reach the two-thirds majority necessary to override the veto.

States throughout the country yesterday ordered tens of thousands of new road signs saying "65 mph", as a result of an immensely popular provision contained in the Highway Bill to raise the speed limit from 55 mph on rural sections of major interstate highways.

There was more gloomy news for Mr Reagan yesterday. A House subcommittee, in this year's first big test of congressional sentiment on his Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), voted for deep cuts in his budget request for the project. But even deeper cuts are expected when the issue is taken up on the House floor.

## Expulsion of Russians threatens Chirac visit

From Diana Geddes, Paris

France's decision to expel three Soviet diplomats accused of spying may jeopardize a planned visit to Moscow next month by the Prime Minister, M. Jacques Chirac. Expulsions of French diplomats in Moscow are also expected.

The Soviet Embassy in Paris has protested against the expulsions, saying that the French Government had provided no proof of the diplomats' alleged illicit activities.

Paris would have to take "the entire responsibility for the consequences which its action will have on Franco-Soviet relations, including future bilateral contacts," the embassy statement added, in apparent reference to M. Chirac's planned visit.

Sources in the Prime Minister's office said M. Chirac had not yet been given

a precise date for the visit, but that it now looked as if it might be put off for "a few weeks, maybe even a few months". The sources also thought the Russians would now expect "one or two" French diplomats in reprisal.

A spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry in Moscow said yesterday the Soviet Union would indeed be taking "reciprocal measures".

M. Jean-Bernard Raimond, the French Foreign Minister, confirmed that one of the three Russians expelled was Major Valery Konorev, the Deputy Air Attaché at the Soviet Embassy, and the alleged mastermind behind the spy ring involved in passing European space technology secrets to the Russians. The other two diplomats have not been named.

The Ariane space rocket affair came to light a fortnight

ago when, in an alleged fit of jealous pique, a Romanian woman working for the French National Statistical Institute in Rouen denounced her former French lover and boss after he had lived her in order to marry a beautiful Russian.

The two women and five Frenchmen have been charged with spying.

MOSCOW: Tass, yesterday accused France of a "deliberate provocation" against a Russian cargo vessel, just 24 hours after the expulsion of the three Soviet diplomats.

According to Tass, a French naval aircraft flew five times over the freighter, the *Fyodor Podtelkov*, at a height of about 100 ft on April 2.

It said the vessel was in international waters off the French naval base of Toulon carrying a cargo of chemicals.

## Gandhi acts to defuse crisis

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, battered by a series of rows in Parliament and press, has decided to try to defuse a growing crisis by appointing a judicial inquiry into allegations that secret funds have been deposited in Swiss banks by individuals linked to his immediate circle.

His brief announcement in the Lok Sabha (Lower House) caused a storm of protest from the Opposition, but the Speaker, Mr Balram Jakhar, refused to allow any further discussion, ruling that no questions could be raised on a minister's statement.

The trouble arises out of an investigation into the affairs of the Reliance group of companies by the Finance Ministry under its then minister, the zealous and untarnished Mr V.P. Singh.

According to reports, the ministry employed the services of an American inquiry firm, the Fairfax group of Annandale, Virginia, headed by Mr Michael Hershtman, a former congressional investigator who worked at one time for the Watergate inquiry.

The reports have suggested that the Fairfax investigation is more far-reaching than the Reliance company and encompassed the affairs of Mr

Ajitabh Bachchan and some Italian associates. A forged letter, which has since been disowned by Fairfax, was published making the linkage.

Mr Ajitabh Bachchan is the brother of Mr Amitabh Bachchan, perhaps India's most famous film star, now an MP and a member of Mr Gandhi's inner circle.

The capital's rumour factory has also linked the sudden transfer of Mr V.P. Singh from the Finance Ministry in the middle of preparation of this year's Budget with Mr Gandhi's displeasure at the investigation.

He put forward an alternative that the black and white MPs in the House of Assembly would sit in an electoral college and together elect members to fill the seats.

## Harare problem on white MPs ban

From Jan Raath, Harare

A detailed outline of the Zimbabwean Government's plans to banish white parliamentary representation has been issued here for the first time. It does, however, recognize that the move presents difficulties.

Dr Edisson Zvobgo, the Minister of Justice and Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, has affirmed that the removal of the 20 seats in the 100-

member House of Assembly, and the 10 white senators from the 40-seat Senate, was an "immediate priority" after the seventh anniversary of independence on April 18.

Approval of the 100 per cent overhaul of the assembly for amendments to the relevant section of the constitution falls away to be replaced by an easily attainable 70 votes.

Dr Zvobgo said the white seats would be vacated immediately, but he was "unable to announce" what procedure would be followed to restore the two houses to their full complements. Another problem, he said, would be the "temporary disenfranchisement" of Zimbabwe's white electorate.

He put forward an alternative that the black and white MPs in the House of Assembly would sit in an electoral college and together elect members to fill the seats.

Supporters of the television evangelicals are rural, low income, often alienated from mainstream America, and mostly middle-aged. The celebrity preachers gave them a voice, they told them how to vote, and they became a political force. But even before the scandal afflicting the Praise The Lord (PTL) ministry, disenchantment was setting in. Income was falling steadily.

Now that the blow-dried preachers are a laughing stock, many of those simple, ordinary people are going to be repelled. They are revolted by the yachts and limousines, the houses and holidays that they knew nothing about until the sex and bribes scandal hit the headlines.

The decline of the television preachers would drastically reduce the evangelicals' ability to finance favourite causes, fight expensive legal battles or finance multi-million dollar political action committees.



The Pope — halfway through his six-day visit to Chile — had a meeting with young people yesterday in a stadium in Santiago. He called on them to help build a new society of peace and justice.

Young Chileans sang rock songs with religious overtones, chanted slogans against the military regime and took advantage of the few hours of freedom afforded by the Pope's presence to shout "The people united will never be defeated" (Lake Sagaris reports from Santiago). This was the main chant of the Popular Unity government elected in 1970 and overthrown by the military in 1973.

Unlike previous encounters with the Pope, uniformed police were visible only at the exits of the national stadium where the event was held.

Chile's military authorities had refused visas to Argentine singers who were to have performed for the Pope during the meeting.

## Canadians will put grievances to Reagan

From Charles Bremner Ottawa

A cartoon is pinned to the wall in the Canadian Government office that handles relations with the United States. It shows Vice-President George Bush with a White House shopping list that reads: "Pick up suit from dry cleaners... talk with Mulroney."

After a honeymoon following the 1984 election that put the Conservative Mr Brian Mulroney in office as Prime Minister, the Canadians are once again venting anger over what they see as the American failure to take them seriously.

Under fire for what critics see as frostiness towards Washington, Mr Mulroney has a stack of grievances to press with President Reagan when he comes to Ottawa tomorrow.

Top of the list are American foot-dragging over a free trade pact and the acid rain pollution.

Both leaders, who credit their Irish ancestry for their much-wanted good chemistry, have a lot to gain from a public relations success in Ottawa.

The trip will be Mr Reagan's first abroad since the Iran affair blew up in November. Mr Mulroney, aged 47, is struggling for credibility after a stream of scandals and political disasters.

The Americans humoured Mr Mulroney when he summoned Mr Bush in January for a dressing down, telling him that Canada was tired of being on Washington's "back burner." Now Mr Mulroney needs action from the President to show that his election pledge to redefine the equation with Washington has not been a failure.

Many Americans seem only vaguely aware of Canada's existence. The country is often the butt of jokes, like that of the weekly *New Republic* last year which challenged readers to invent a more boring headline than: "Worthwhile Canadian Initiative."

In contrast, the relationship with the US is the most important factor in Canadian political life. "We don't want to be seen as the Finns of North America," the senior Canadian diplomat remarked.

## Spanner in the works of religion's TV machine

The sex and blackmail scandal in the television evangelical movement is inflicting immeasurable damage on a powerful, pervasive and right-wing religious machine that has helped shape American politics all this decade.

As the nation laughs and mocks, so the influence of the television preacher-politicians is dwindling. The largely poor, uneducated people who have made them so unbelievably rich and politically influential are starting to defect. Opinion polls point to growing disenchantment. The TV evangelists are in a panic. And a \$1 billion-a-year industry is threatened.

Together with their non-television brothers, the electronic evangelists are in the forefront of battles against abortion and the struggle to restore school prayer. They influence the politics of millions of Americans. They helped put President Reagan in the White House.

The broader evangelical movement has been politically important for two de-

cadres, but the proliferation of television preachers who boldly solicit money as "prayer offerings" has spurred a phenomenal growth in the past seven or eight years. More than 13 million Americans are regular watchers of religious shows. One in three American adults describes himself or herself as a born-again Christian.

The evangelical power base is traditionally in the south, but because of television it is extending through the mid-west and beyond. In Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan and Oregon, fundamentalist factions of the Republican Party have seized control of weak local Republican groups. They are door-knocking activists. Their leaders tell them it is their moral duty to get elected to school and library boards to protect Christian values.

In the south, where elections always have a chronically low turnout, evangelical activists have had no trouble taking political control of small communities. Only a

few weeks ago they won a hard-fought battle to expunge the taint of "secular humanism" from Alabama school textbooks. That kind of long, legal battle takes big money, and the television preachers provided it.

The biggest of the Christian television entrepreneurs, the Rev Pat Robertson, whose

Virginia-based Christian Broadcasting Network receives direct annual contributions of well over \$120 million, is the first of the celebrity preachers to seek the Republican presidential nomination.

He does not think the scandal will harm his chances. "The Lord is housecleaning," he said. "I'm glad to see it happen." But he has quickly detected a changed atmosphere and has told his spokesmen to refer to him in future as a broadcaster, a news

analyst, a commentator — anything but a television evangelist. The move is an acknowledgement that television preachers are in disgrace.

He sits at the bottom end of the polls. He has ensured that he will stay there by issuing two much-publicized \$35 million libel suits over suggestions that his late father, a senator, pulled strings to keep him out of combat duty during the Korean war. His reputation, justly or not, has been besmirched.

Non-television evangelicals, who were around years before the television preachers stole the show, are worried that the damage will filter down to them, upsetting the entire evangelical movement and disrupting its carefully structured political advance through the grass roots of American society.

It will probably not come to that. The evangelical movement has a bedrock of tens of thousands of small churches across the country, far from

the glitter and fanfare of the star preachers.

Supporters of the television evangelicals are rural, low income, often alienated from mainstream America, and mostly middle-aged. The celebrity preachers gave them a voice, they told them how to vote, and they became a political force. But even before the scandal afflicting the Praise The Lord (PTL) ministry, disenchantment was setting in. Income was falling steadily.

Now that the blow-dried preachers are a laughing stock, many of those simple, ordinary people are going to be repelled. They are revolted by the yachts and limousines, the houses and holidays that they knew nothing about until the sex and bribes scandal hit the headlines.

The decline of the television preachers would drastically reduce the evangelicals' ability to finance favourite causes, fight expensive legal battles or finance multi-million dollar political action committees.

## Turkish press begins to scent winds of freedom

From Nicholas Beeston, Istanbul

Two recent confrontations between the Turkish press and authorities have highlighted the growing strength of the print media, which are expected to play an influential role in the general election next year.

Last week, for the first time since he took office, President Evren travelled from Ankara to Istanbul to defend himself before journalists after a damaging newspaper revelation followed by calls for his resignation.

An article in the daily *Kumhuriyet* revealed that the President can authorize the Saudi-financed World Islamic League to pay the salaries of 41 Islamic clerics appointed by the Government to posts in Europe. Since the country was declared a

secular state by Kemal Ataturk in 1928, secularism has been one of the main pillars of modern Turkey.

President Evren is likely to ride out the storm, but Turkish journalists observe that the significance of the episode is that a newspaper was able to collect information and print it with no government interference.

"This story would never have been printed two years ago," said Professor Sherif Marein, head of the Department of Sociology at the Bosphorus University. "Nowadays there are similarly sensitive and embarrassing items of news appearing every day."

Journalists in Istanbul, although emphasizing that some subjects remain taboo, predict that Turkey's rapid liberalization will mean that the country will have a completely free

press in the coming years. Press freedom is also seen as an integral part of the Government's attempts to satisfy the European Community that it is fully democratic and deserves a seat in Brussels.

Britain is hoping to secure a multi-million pound defence contract with Turkey for the supply of armoured personnel carriers (Nicholas Beeston writes from Istanbul). A decision on the 3,000-vehicle contract is expected in July. Britain is offering the highly sophisticated GKN Warrior.

But the scandal caused by the Evren story also coincided with the arrival of two plain-clothed soldiers at the offices of the weekly magazine *Yeni Gundem*, whose managing edi-

tor, Mr Cengiz Turhan, was informed that legal proceedings might be taken against the publication and that the week's edition would be taken off the street.

The piece in question was an interview with a Kurdish Institute in Paris, and part of the 10-page article was about the recent attack by Kurdish separatists on villages in eastern Turkey.

Journalists said other subjects sensitive with the authorities included criticism of the armed forces, human rights violations, homosexuality and radical opinions of a religious or political nature. They agreed that there is a dramatic change under way in Turkey, but differed on the question of how long it will take before they can openly publish articles on thorny subjects.

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## EEC spending on technology

# Britain is odd man out as Germans agree to funding for research

From Richard Owen, Brussels

After a week which vividly illustrated West Germany's disagreements with the European Commission over farm spending reforms and other issues, Bonn yesterday reaffirmed its European credentials by agreeing to a compromise proposal on future EEC research funding.

The West German move leaves Britain isolated in holding out against a £4,000 million research package for the next five years. Mr Guy Verhofstadt, the Belgian Research Minister and president of the EEC Research Council, says the package is the minimum Europe needs to keep pace technologically with Japan and the United States.

Officials said only Britain had refused to respond to an EEC ultimatum over the research package. West Germany joined the EEC majority just before the expiry yesterday of the deadline for agreement set by Mr Verhofstadt.

Until recently both Bonn and London objected to the package on the ground that the EEC budget — especially farm spending — had to be brought under control before more money was spent on technology. Bonn now accepts, however, that research is vital to Europe's future.

Mr Amédée Turner, Conservative MEP for Suffolk and the Conservative Party's spokesman on research in

Europe, said Britain was weakening its stand over budgetary discipline by trying to use technology as a lever. Belgian officials said Britain would be given a further week to make up its mind, since Mrs Thatcher had "other things on her mind", such as her trip to Moscow.

M. Jacques Delors, the president of the Commission, ran into stiff opposition this week over his plans for reforming EEC finances and the common agricultural policy (CAP) when the 17-man Commission met Chancellor Helmut Kohl and senior West German ministers in Bonn.

The unprecedented meeting marked the first time the Commission had held its regular session outside Brussels.



Mr Turner criticized British stand on budgetary policies.

With thousands of protesting German farmers blocking the streets of Bonn, Herr Kohl told M. Delors and the Commission that he could not allow German farmers to become "the victims of Community policies".

Diplomats said this week-end's local elections in Hesse were a reminder of the political sensitivity of the farm issue for Bonn.

Despite its concession over research, Bonn is adamantly opposed to CAP reforms, which it believes will damage rural incomes in Germany.

In particular, West Germany opposes the Commission's proposal for abolishing cross-border taxes which compensate German farmers for currency fluctuations.

Disagreements over the Delors reform package will almost certainly dominate the EEC summit in June in Brussels, with Mrs Thatcher joining Herr Kohl in opposing the plan but for different reasons, notably her determination to preserve Britain's hard-won EEC budget rebate at all costs.

Mrs Thatcher's Moscow visit, and the impending trade war with Japan, will dominate a two-day informal meeting of EEC foreign ministers this weekend at Tournhout in Belgium. Britain will present its proposals for trade sanctions against Tokyo and ask for support from the Community.

## Israeli President shrugs off tour critics



President Herzog of Israel, wearing an apron inscribed with a bear, symbol of the Swiss city of Bern, as he is handed a gift at the start of an official visit yesterday.

President Herzog will stay in Switzerland until Monday, when he travels on to West Germany for the first official visit to the country by an Israeli head of state (Ian Murray writes from Jerusalem).

He said before he left that the West German trip was a "symbolic expression of the victory of the victims of the Holocaust over its perpetrators". It was not, he said, a journey of "forgiveness and forget".

The West German Ambassador to Israel, Herr Wilhelm Haas, said it was "not just a journey into the past but into the future as well".

The visit has been criticized by some

leading figures, including one of his predecessors, Professor Ephraim Katzir, who described it as a premature admission that normal relations had been restored.

President Herzog replied that there could never be a normal relationship with Germany, "only a special relationship". He argued that it would focus more attention on the Holocaust than any event since the trial of Adolf Eichmann for war crimes.

## Moscow respect for UK envoy

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Much of the credit for the organizational success of Mrs Thatcher's remarkably high-profile visit to the Soviet Union must go to the able and affable British Ambassador, Sir Bryan Cartledge, less grandly described in the first Tass account of her punishing schedule as "Bryan George Cartledge".

British political observers have predicted that the ambassador's crucial role will not be forgotten, and expect to see him suitably rewarded with an influential post in a broader foreign policy field if Mrs Thatcher is returned again to Downing Street.

A fluent Russian speaker — last year he impressed many ordinary Soviet citizens by delivering in Russian on Soviet television the Queen's annual birthday message to the Soviet Union without the normal voice-over translation — the 55-year-old envoy served as Private Secretary (Overseas Affairs) at 10 Downing Street from 1977 to 1979.

Energetic personal diplomacy by Sir Bryan is regarded as an important contributory factor to the rapid repair of relations after the expulsions of 31 nationals in either direction in a brief tit-for-tat diplomatic war.

Sir Bryan's association with Soviet affairs began at the age of 24 when he took up a research fellowship at St Antony's College, Oxford, repaid by Soviet officials as regards to the study of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

His first posting to Moscow was in 1963, the year before Khrushchev's overthrow, as a First Secretary. His early



Sir Bryan Cartledge: fluent Russian speaker.

experience in those turbulent years has put him in good stead to assess the implications of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's reform programme.

Unflappable and approachable, Sir Bryan rarely loses his temper. He did, however, when he first saw the video of the recent BBC documentary *Caravan and Cornflakes*, depicting the life of British diplomats and journalists based in Moscow. He regarded it as a cheap slur on the hard and difficult work of his staff (depicted mainly as upper-class party-goers) and had no hesitation in letting the corporation know that he felt that the facilities given to the director, Mr Richard Denton (of *Comrades* fame), had been abused.

The Kremlin view of the film has never been revealed, but the respect held for Sir Bryan was displayed in the flatteringly long meeting he was granted recently by senior Soviet officials to complete details for the Thatcher visit.

Although Sir Bryan's old-world charm sometimes gives the false impression of lack of resolve, his conduct of the sensitive Anglo-Soviet relationship has shown otherwise — notably last month when *Pravda* took the unusual step of publishing a letter he sent to it criticizing its coverage of the case of Mr Michael Hicks, the Wapping demonstrator, who had been depicted as a British political prisoner.

Pointing out that Mr Hicks had been convicted of causing actual bodily harm, Sir Bryan noted tartly that, under Article 193 of the Soviet Criminal Code, "a convicted offender could be sentenced to up to three years' loss of liberty".

## Peru's Air Force head dismissed by García

Lima (Reuters) — President Alan García has dismissed Peru's Air Force commander, Lieutenant-General Luis Abram Cavellero, two days after signing into law a Bill to reorganize the armed forces.

Sudden dismissals of commanders are rare in Peru because the job succession normally occurs at the end of each calendar year.

The dismissal followed tension between the President and the Navy and Air Force over the Bill, which lays the groundwork for merging the Ministries of War, Navy and Air Force and Joint Chiefs of Staff under a single Defence Ministry.

**Jumbo faults**

Tokyo (Reuters) — Japan Air Lines ordered checks on its fleet of 747 SR jumbo jets after inspectors running a routine check found that one of three diagonal braces attaching an engine to the wing had snapped due to metal fatigue.

**Coup arrest**

Freetown (Reuters) — Assistant Police Superintendent Benjamin Taylor has been detained in connection with an attempted coup in Sierra Leone last month.

**Nazi must die**

Belgrade (Reuters) — The Yugoslav Federal Court has turned down an appeal to commute the death sentence on the Nazi war criminal, Andrija Artukovic.

**No decision**

Geneva (AP) — An international tribunal of arbitration set up to determine compensation for the French attack in 1985 on the Greenpeace vessel *Rainbow Warrior*, had a secret first hearing in Geneva without reaching a decision on the amount.

**Aids order**

Rome (Reuters) — Magistrates in the Italian town of Latina have ordered a local hospital to perform an abortion on a 32-year-old woman with Aids antibodies who was previously refused the operation.

**Talks over**

Addis Ababa (Reuters) — The latest round of peace talks between Ethiopia and Somalia ended in deadlock, but the two sides agreed to hold further discussions.

**Rebel ruler**

Bangkok (AP) — The remains of Emperor Duy Tan, who tried to lead a revolt against French colonial rule in the early 1900s, have been returned to Vietnam from France.

**Lost and found**

Milan (Reuters) — Police have recovered the £384,000 autumn and winter fashion collection of the leading Italian designer Krizia, which was stolen last month.

**Pets die**

New York (AP) — A fire in a pet shop in the Queens district killed nearly 300 dogs, cats and other animals.

## Election in 'Red' stronghold of Hesse

# Nuclear fears haunt Bonn's champion

From John England, Wiesbaden

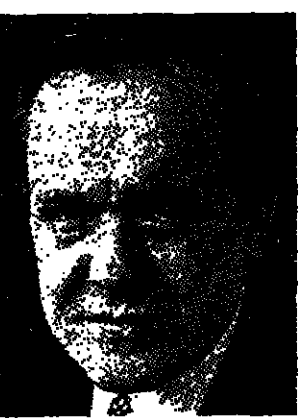
Herr Walter Wallmann, the West German Environment Minister, believes he has a good chance of becoming the first Christian Democrat Prime Minister of traditionally "Red" Hesse since post-war state elections began in 1946. The Social Democrats say he is on a return ticket to Bonn.

A premature election here tomorrow will decide who is right, but most bets are that the Social Democrats (SPD) under Herr Hans Krollmann, aged 57, will maintain their 40-year grip on the state with the aid of the Greens. The poll, originally due in September, was brought forward after the break-up in February of the second Red-Green coalition in three years.

Herr Wallmann, aged 54, is scenting a victory for the Christian Democrats (CDU), together with the Free Democrats (FDP), in his second tilt at the premiership. He says that Hesse's more than four million voters, who will be turning out for their third state election in less than five years, are tired of "Red-Green instability".

Voter bloody-mindedness, however, is seen as likely to work against him. Based on state polls in the past, parties that are in power in Bonn have trouble in bringing about government changes at state level. Like government supporters in British by-elections, West German voters often use state polls to punish their parties in the capital for real or imagined sins.

Many people who usually vote CDU are not happy with the Federal Government's recent decision to cut the income tax rate for top earners.



Herr Wallmann: hampered by farm and tax policies.

There were also many disgruntled Hesse farmers among the 20,000 who demonstrated in Bonn last Thursday against Chancellor Kohl's "lack of guts" in standing up to Brussels on EEC farm prices, although he spent the day doing so in visiting European Commissioners.

Herr Wallmann's main problem, however, is a passionate argument over two nuclear plants at Hanau, near Frankfurt, which the Greens want closed immediately and the SPD "later". The two parties' differing views on the plants



Herr Fischer: Greens benefit from the Chernobyl factor.

caused their most recent split. But for the moment Herr Wallmann is the nuclear ogre.

The Greens, whose best-known candidate is Herr Joschka Fischer, a cocky 38-year-old who was Environment Minister in the last Red-Green Cabinet in Wiesbaden, accuse Herr Wallmann of wanting to turn Hesse into an "atom state". The SPD say he is wedded to a "plutonium economy".

Herr Wallmann says the Hanau plants are safe, despite a recent accident in which nine workers at one of them breathed plutonium, though they are said to have suffered no harm. He insists that the plants, which have only partial approval to operate under the federal nuclear law, are needed until alternative energy sources can be found and must be allowed to go into full production.

The local "Chernobyl factor" may give the Red-Green alliance the decisive edge tomorrow.

Results at the last election in September 1983: SPD 46.2 per cent; CDU 39.4 per cent; FDP 7.6 per cent; Greens 5.9 per cent.

## Greek clergy defy land law

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The Orthodox Church of Greece declared yesterday that it would refuse to implement the controversial law on church property just passed by Parliament, because its provisions violated the holy canons and abolished church self-rule.

The hierarchy of the Church also threatened to renounce its independent status as an autocephalous Orthodox church by returning to the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the spiritual head of Orthodoxy, from which the Greek Church seceded formally in 1850.

"This is hardly an idle threat," said Father Stephanos, secretary of the Synod's committee for foreign relations. "After all, Constantinople is our mother church." The Greek Government deplored

the threat as "an insult to the Greek constitution and the will of the people". Under the new legislation, however, any property owned in Greece by the Orthodox patriarchates or foreign churches, as well as the monasteries of Mount Athos and Sinai, are exempt from the takeover.

The Bill, which gives to the state all monastic lands and imposes secular management on the Church's urban property, prompted strong reactions from the church leaders, who boycotted official Independence Day services and staged protest rallies in central Athens.

Messages of solidarity and support to the Church of Greece came from most Orthodox churches, including the Ecumenical Patriarch, Demetrios I, and Patriarch Pimen of

Moscow. A message of sympathy from the Archbishop of Canterbury was delivered to the Church yesterday by Canon Christopher Hill, his Secretary for Ecumenical Affairs.

Dr Runcie wrote: "While I would not lightly wish to criticize a Government duly elected by the people of Greece, it is surely desirable that any change in the relationship between the Church and the state should be approved by both parties and not unilaterally forced upon the Church."

The Greek Church, which had offered to give away monastic land of 320,000 acres to poor and landless farmers and, as the law required, to party-controlled farm co-operatives, has now withdrawn the gift.

## Chad victors claim US help

Ndjamena (NYT) — Information provided by the United States and France is helping the Chadian Army in its successful campaign against Libyan forces occupying the northern part of the country, according to senior Chad officials in Ndjamena, the capital.

Intelligence based on satellite pictures of the battlefield and intercepted Libyan radio messages is apparently being given to the forces of President Habré of Chad and is said to have played a role in the series of stunning victories last week around the Libyans' desert stronghold of Wadi Doum.

The information is also being used to keep track of the Libyans as they retreat into the mountains of north-west Chad.

But Chadian officials re-

fused to provide any details of the intelligence support.

With the fall of Wadi Doum

Libya's planes have launched further attacks on its former desert base in Wadi Doum in northern Chad yesterday, destroying some of the estimated \$33 million worth of arms and equipment — much of it supplied by the Soviet Union — abandoned during the Chadian offensive last month (AP reports from Ndjamena).

On March 22, Libya's strategic position in Chad collapsed and, with it, whatever immediate hopes Colonel Gadhafi had of dominating northern Chad, according to a French expert on Chad.

"The Libyans thought Wadi Doum was impregnable," said a senior French officer. "But

the Chadians captured it in four hours."

French officers and both Chad and American authorities agreed that the Libyans were faced with three alternatives after the capture of Wadi Doum.

These were to counter-attack and attempt to retake it; go on the defensive within the region; or abandon the desert plains of northern Chad and retreat into the Tibesti mountains to the west.

The defeat at Wadi Doum was so complete and came as such a shock to the Libyans, according to Chad officers, that the Libyans decided to evacuate the plains and retreat.

Chadian forces then occupied abandoned Libyan garrisons at Faya Largeau, Gouro and Ounianga Kebir five days later.

# Prague awaits kiss of life from Russia's Prince Charming

From Richard Bassett, Prague

In times of uncertainty, Czechoslovaks resort to the art form in which their popular hero, the "Good Soldier Schwejk", excelled: the political joke.

With the arrival on Monday of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev raising hopes of change in what has been since 1968 Moscow's least flexible ally, the latest joke has some words of cautious advice for the Soviet leader: "You cannot improve a brothel by simply changing the beds."

In Prague most people are under no illusion that "reform," an emotive word in post-1968 Czechoslovakia, can be either swift or lasting without new faces in the hierarchy.

The men Mr Gorbachev will see during his three-day visit are precisely those who were responsible for ensuring that *glasnost* (openness) was suppressed after the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion which followed the "Prague Spring" reforms of Mr Alexander Dubcek.

Mr Gorbachev's generation of "reformers" in the Soviet Union was in Czechoslovakia removed systematically from all positions of power and influence after 1968. Those who did not emigrate

have continued to live in isolation.

To President Gustav Husak and the men in the Czechoslovak Government, time has stood still. For them, the events of 1968 happened not almost 20 years ago but yesterday; its hopes and fears still visibly familiar to all, its scars and impact on the country's morale never healed.

Unlike Prince Charming, Mr Gorbachev can only partly rouse the Czech sleeping beauty with his embrace. It cannot remove the overgrown wilderness in which she has reposed and she will see, bleary-eyed, that however ardent and sincere her hero the same thorns are still surrounding her.

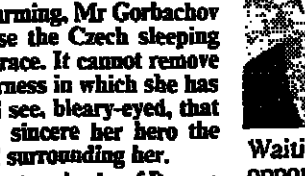
In the remote concrete suburbs of Prague and Bratislava, a few aged survivors of the 1968 Prague Spring will watch Mr Gorbachev's progress with particular interest as he attempts to promote changes which they themselves introduced nearly 20 years ago.

"What Gorbachev is doing is good and we can only hope that he makes it," one of that disinherited generation of 1968 remarked. He also noted that "we do not expect Mr Gorbachev's visit to solve anything politically here."

"Gorbachev inherited 1968. It is his

problem and only he can solve it, but the present Prague Government cannot help him. As in the Soviet Union, there must be new personalities to produce change."

In Bratislava, the former Communist Party leader of the Prague Spring, Mr Alexander Dubcek, is known to be watching events with an especially keen interest. Now a retired forestry worker, aged 65, he must wonder whether the day will come when his name — so long vilified by the present ideologues — is "rehabilitated" and



Waiting for Gorbachev: Dr Husak, left, opponent of change, and Mr Dubcek, reformer hoping for rehabilitation.

restored to a more favourable niche in official history.

On Tuesday Mr Gorbachev is expected to visit Bratislava, and although rumours abound that he might drop in on Mr Dubcek, diplomats here consider it unlikely that he will be allowed to meet the man whose very name is anathema to the present party leadership.

To a certain extent, Mr Gorbachev's first priority in Prague over the next few days will be to spy out the political landscape for "new forces" which can eventually become a vehicle for change. Those who echo the call for reform of the Prime Minister, Mr Ladomir Strougal, will doubtless be earmarked for future reference. Those who have resisted reform like the head of ideology, Mr Vasil Bilak, may not even get to meet the Soviet leader.

President Husak will, no doubt, impress upon Mr Gorbachev the inescapable fact that, compared to the Soviet economy, the Czechoslovak economy has been managed with some success. Living standards are rising, food shortages are increasingly rare.

Moreover, a few weeks ago, at the Central Committee meeting, he spoke of reforms of management in industry provid-

ing "the biggest change in the country's economic system since the war".

Dr Husak has also called for secret ballots for party posts and said that the party must "consider the democratic reforms proposed by Mr Gorbachev in the Soviet Union". He also urged more freedom of information, saying: "We want people to know what is happening in our country."

Thus he can convincingly point out to Mr Gorbachev that, since recent history shows that reform in Prague is a very difficult and high-risk process, it must therefore be carefully controlled and introduced slowly — two things Dr Husak will doubtless claim his Government is now doing.

In contrast to the Soviet Union, there have been no grand gestures on the human rights front in Czechoslovakia. "Charter 77" human rights campaigners are being harassed and subjected, like many Catholics, to frequent interrogations. Two pending trials of dissidents have been postponed until after Mr Gorbachev's visit.

The security forces with their all-pervasive surveillance of those on whom the state wishes to focus its disapproval remain unchanged. One dissident, for example, is followed by at least three secret policemen

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Moscow  
respect  
for UK  
envoy

April 4 - 10, 1987

# SATURDAY

A weekly guide  
to leisure, entertainment  
and the arts

John Rogers



## On the Canterbury trail

A part from, and perhaps even including, the 12 apostles, it was the most disparate body of folk ever assembled to celebrate a common cause. If it were to rendezvous today in a London pub it would probably contain the likes of Paul McCartney, Madame Cyn, Bruce Kent, a scrap dealer, Sir Ralph Halpern, a Salvation Army sister or two, an unemployed Georgie stevedore, the Duke of Westminster, a second-hand car dealer and — if only because he combines the roles of politician and storyteller — Jeffrey Archer. Their common destination on the morrow would more likely be Wembley for the Cup Final than deep into Kent to pay homage to a martyr.

Exactly 600 years ago this month, however, the comparable medieval spectrum of society which congregated at the Tabard Inn in Southwark constituted, among others, a knight, a ribald miller, the amiably libertine Wife of Bath, a cook, a pardoner, a reeve, a franklin, a ploughman and a brace of nuns. Even allowing for their unusually democratic format, this motley group of pilgrims, and the journey they shared over the next four days, would have stood little chance of passing into the pages of immemorial legend were it not for the

presence in their midst of Geoffrey Chaucer, a one-time pageboy and poet extraordinary. Which is why, on the sixteenth of this month — Maundy Thursday, and the sixtieth anniversary to the very day of that momentous gathering — a party of devotees will set off from the Tower of London on the first stage of a ceremonial horseback pilgrimage to the city immortalized by *The Canterbury Tales*. Their aim is to raise £225,000, needed to set up a permanent shrine to the memory of Chaucer, to put Canterbury at least on the same map as Stratford-on-Avon in the culture vulture's guide and to redress one of the most astonishing omissions in the list of attractions in a nation usually committed to the lionizing — and often the exploitation — of its favourite sons.

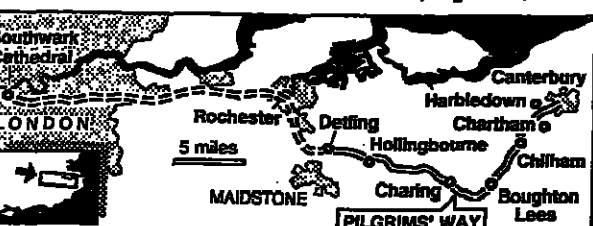
Geoffrey Chaucer, more than any other, is credited with re-establishing English as a socially acceptable language at a time when only French had been spoken in the royal court. Chaucer was to become the first occupant of that most exclusive burial ground in Britain, Poets' Corner, though his burial in Westminster Abbey came about because he happened to live next door. Generations of schoolchildren, even while sniggering at an ante-puritan literary age in which bums and farts were not fated to be contained within plain brown covers, have marvelled at his narrative style and disentangled his archaic couplets for the benefit of O- and A-level examiners. Yet neither in his native London nor in Canterbury — nor, indeed, anywhere else in the English speaking world — is there a single monument to his honour.

How one of Britain's greatest writers came to become publicly unremembered is something of a mystery. Perhaps the burdensome spelling of the 14th century was enough to confine his appeal to the schoolroom and to isolated oases of adult scholarship. Perhaps he was merely displaced by Shakespeare and his fellow Elizabethans in the popular affection. Or perhaps Canterbury, with its cathedral and headquarters status in the Church of England, had enough tourist claims without needing to mobilize the Chaucer connection. If, however, the 600th anniversary of his Canterbury pilgrimage succeeds in reinstating him to his rightful pedestal, there can be no

Exactly six centuries after Chaucer's pilgrimage, a disparate group sets out at Easter to pay its own homage. William Greaves meets the pilgrims



- |                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Student, Michael Mangion          | 12 Wife of Bath, Diana Campbell   |
| 2 Wench, Jane Kemio                 | 13 Page, Paul Ridley-Thomas       |
| 3 Host, Richard Schulman            | 14 Wench, Deborah Pearce          |
| 4 Knight, Neil Lucas                | 15 Squire, Andrew Dean            |
| 5 Lady, Abigail Padfield            | 16 Wench, Krissy Wilson           |
| 6 Page, Tessa Baurat                | 17 Young Knight, Philippe Wilczka |
| 7 Priest, Andrew Morrison           | 18 Student, Jason Mullen          |
| 8 Chaucer, Martin Starke            | 19 Wench, Rachel Betterley        |
| 9 Nun, Louise Rander                | 20 Miller, Mark Johnson           |
| 10 Prioresse, Sarah Anson           | 21 Pardoner, Paul Lyons           |
| 11 Clerk of Oxford, Michael Wallace | 22 Summoner, Hugh Leeson          |



Maundy Thursday: Assemble Tower of London, noon; Prayers, Southwark Cathedral, 1.45 pm.  
Good Friday: Knight's Tale and Miller's Tale at Bear Garden, Bankside, SE1, 7.30 pm.  
Easter Saturday: Selected Tales at King's Head, Rochester, Noon - 2 pm. Street entertainers, 11.30 am - 3 pm.  
Easter Day: Walk from Detling to Boughton Lees, 10.30 am - 3 pm.  
Easter Monday: Cavalcade, Boughton Lees (11 am) via Chatham to Harbledown (1 pm). Selected Tales, St Nicholas' Hospital, 1.30 pm.  
Cavalcade enters Weeping, Canterbury, 2.45 pm.  
Tuesday: Evensong, Canterbury Cathedral, 5.30 pm.

doubt about the man who began his rehabilitation. Nevill Coghill, later to become Merton Professor of English Literature at Oxford University, produced his modern translation of *The Canterbury Tales* in 1951. Freed from the straitjacket of an archaic language, The Reeve's Tale, The Miller's Tale, The Pardoner's Tale et al passed almost overnight into the public domain and the Coghill translation became Penguin's most unlikely winner. Last year's edition was its 35th reprint. Even more unexpected, however, was the phenomenal success of the musical version of *Canterbury Tales*, co-written by Coghill and his one-time student, Martin Starke, which opened at the Phoenix Theatre in London in 1968 and ran for five years, took Broadway by storm and even managed a two-year run in Prague. Yet when Starke, who in

the last two years has spent more than £100,000 of his own money on two Chaucer festivals, inquired the other day at the Tower of London shop whether it stocked any books or other Chaucer memorabilia, he was met with "Chaucer — who's he?" "Considering we have chosen that location for the start of the anniversary pilgrimage because Chaucer was for some time put in charge of all the Tower's maintenance and repairs by Richard II, it really is amazing how little he is remembered," Starke says. "That is why we want to set up a permanent shrine to him in Canterbury."

But Starke and his supporters — including Sir Robert Bolt, John Schlesinger, Lindsay Anderson, Paul Schofield and Dame Elizabeth Frink — are determined that their poet hero will not be commemorated by any dry and dusty museum. "We want to make the Chaucer centre not only a shrine to his memory," Sylvia Denning, co-director of the Chaucer Festival, says, "but also a place where performances of his works can be seen and where people can learn and practise such activities as medieval instrument-making, wool-carding, calligraphy and medieval cooking, spinning and weaving."

The site for the centre — if the money is forthcoming — has already been earmarked. "We've designated a charming little house in St Peter's Street, which is really part of the High Street," says Mrs Hazel McCabe, Canterbury councillor and mayor at the time of the first festival in 1985, who will be riding the last day's stage of the anniversary pilgrimage, from Boughton Lees to the cathedral precincts, on Easter Monday. "I really don't know why Chaucer has been so neglected here over the years," she says. "We get about a million and a half tourists a year, attracted by the cathedral and the old city centre, but I am sure this figure could be enlarged when the centre is open — there is already a kernel of people interested but we still hope for more support."

and The Miller's Tale at the Bear Garden in Southwark, and a supper at Pilgrims, the reconstructed cavalcade will set off on Friday for the four-day journey to Canterbury, pausing for such diversions as street entertainment in Rochester and a re-enactment of the Tales at Harbledown. "We have had to choose this route, the more southern of the two used in medieval times, because the one which Chaucer actually followed, through Greenwich, Rochester and Sittingbourne, is now mostly motorway," Starke said.

When they reach their destination they will come face to face with the continuity of history. More than a thousand young people from Kent will already be in Canterbury, having completed the annual diocesan youth pilgrimage. "Horses have tended to give way to coaches these days," says Roy Ford, Canterbury Cathedral's director of visits. "Of the two million people who visited the cathedral last year, just over 40,000 were pre-booked and I suppose about 3,000 could be specifically described as pilgrims. I don't suppose many of them are particularly aware of Chaucer but they do want to know the site of Thomas à Becket's tomb, destroyed during the Reformation, which

Continued on next page

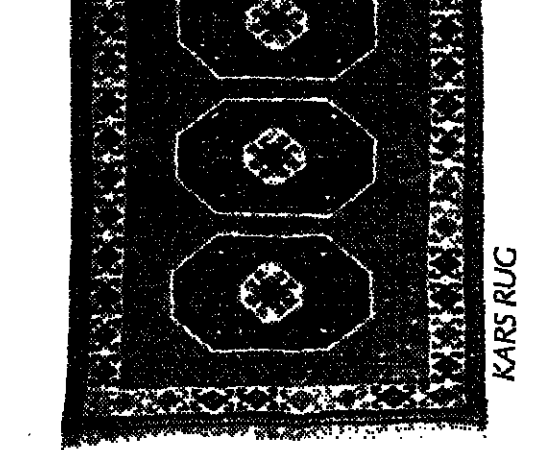
### PUBLIC NOTICE

At a duly minuted resolution by the company's directors dated 23 Feb. 1987 the shareholders and directors of a large direct importers bonded warehouse, totally illiquid, have been reluctantly compelled to liquidate assets and inventory held in order to stimulate cash.

Exact pressure by creditors together with heavy financial costs, in servicing short term loans has made this a sale of necessity and instructions have been issued to dispose of the entire inventory piece by piece to the highest bidder at a

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Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

## TRAVEL

## Sir Ian's fun flights

## TRAVEL NEWS

After taking on the might of the National Union of Mineworkers, Sir Ian MacGregor is now in competition with other airlines as chairman of Britain's latest budget fare transatlantic carrier, Highland Express.

The airline starts operations on May 30 from Stansted, Birmingham and Prestwick, with fares ranging between £198 and £338 return to New York and £268-£338 return to Toronto. Ticket sales are being handled by American Airlines (0932 246166).

Highland Express promises free in-flight ice-cream and "fun packs" for children.

## Cut-price bill and coo

A restored pigeon loft sleeping two people could be just the place for anyone wanting to home-in on a holiday bargain in the French Dordogne this month. It is one of 44 properties in the region being offered by Meon Villa Holidays at a weekly rental of £249 for the whole of April, including Easter week, which compares with normal rates of up to £249. Information: 0730 684111.

Germany has an impressive range of special interest holidays, including beer festivals, wine seminars, language courses, tours for the handicapped and short city breaks. Inclusive Holiday Digest, available free from the German National Tourist Office (01-734 2600), lists 245 destinations and accommodation from castle hotels to camping sites.

## Double discount

The Spanish airline Iberia is giving a one-third discount to anyone accompanying a passenger paying the full "Moneysaver" fare and travelling to any of 13 destinations in April, May or June, excluding the bank holiday periods. Information: 01 437 5622.

## Travel caviar-class

British Airways is upgrading service on its "Riviera Route" from Heathrow to Nice. Club Class passengers benefit from improved seating and meals with a French flavour, including a small offering of *pate de foie gras* or caviar.

Deet: the mosquito repellent known as "deet" is diethyl toluamide, not dimethyl phthalate as stated on March 31.

Philip Ray

## Easter crackers: the rite of spring

A getaway guide to what's on and where over the bank holiday — or simply how to escape from it all

It's a funny thing: there is never a sailing dinghy or caravan to be seen around the cities all winter; yet on the first Sunday warm or bright enough to lead a person to sniff the air and take to the open road, they appear, as if by magic, crowding all exits at the start of their annual migration. Caravans, obedient in the tow of family saloons bristling with optical gadgetry, trundle along in the sunshine. Small boats, anticipating choppy passages, bounce in the wake of crowded hatch-backs. Cars topped with windsurfers, hang-gliders, racing cycles, jockey at the lights with trailers full of scramble bikes and go-karts. Spring has sprung. Easter, just two weeks away, marks the start of the summer season. So for those not committed to any of the foregoing pastimes, or to stocking up at the garden centre, here are some seasonal suggestions for holidays.

Eggs have played a central role in spring festivals since time immemorial. And while Romanians believe that the bright red paint on their traditional painted Easter eggs represents the blood of Christ, it has to be said that the Chinese have been exchanging red eggs for 3,000 years.

In 1390, England's Edward I went even further. After spending the kingly sum of 18 pence on "four hundred and a half of eggs", he had, according to his household accounts, a portion of them gilded with gold leaf, while the remainder were stained by boiling.

Egg-rolling is the most persistent of Easter pastimes. Usually coloured, hard-boiled eggs are rolled down a slope to be eaten by their owners when they reach the bottom. But, as is often the case with ancient games, an element of fortune-telling is sometimes introduced: an unbroken egg is seen as signs of good luck, while damaged ones are believed to forecast ill-winds.

The Easter Monday egg-rolling tradition continues at Arthur's Seat, the hill that looks down on Edinburgh, the



English eccentricity: Midgley Paice Eggers at Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, who often appear in the Calder Valley on Good Friday and (right) an Easter religious festival in Sicily

castle moat at Penrith in Cumbria. Bunker's Hill at Derby, and on the bank of the River Ribble at Avenham Park, Preston, Lancashire.

At Hallaton in Leicestershire an ancient Easter hare ritual is still observed on Easter Monday. This is the famous hare pie scramble, followed by a strenuous game of bottle-kicking, which is played with special barrels. Both customs are medieval, if not older — a hare was the sacred beast of Eostre, the Saxon goddess of spring.

Pace-egging is another custom still honoured in the Halifax area where Easter versions of the Christmas mumming play are performed on Good Friday in Brighouse, Midgley and Mytholmroyd.

Less flamboyant Easter rituals include the distribution of the Biddenden Dole at Biddenden in Kent. The origins of the charity are disputed between 12th-century Siamese twin sisters who are said to have left 20 acres of land to provide a dole of bread, cheese and beer for the poor of the parish, and a less bizarre 16th-century bequest.

If you fancy a break, the following hotels in the vicinity of these events still had beds available for Easter weekend when we checked this week.

**EDINBURGH:** The Caledonian Hotel, Princes Street (031 225 2433). Two nights' bed and breakfast, plus one dinner, £72 per person between April 17 to 20 inclusive.

Half an hour's drive from Edinburgh, at Gullane, is Greywalls (0620 842 144), a country house hotel which shares membership of the Pride of Britain consortium with the Caledonian. A two-night Easter break with dinner, bed and breakfast costs from £120 per person.

**PENRITH:** Grasmere, about 25 miles from Penrith, Michael's Nook (09665 496), charges from £55 per person for dinner, bed and breakfast.

**ING HILL LODGE,** in the upper Eden valley near Kirkstow, offers one week self-catering for up to four people sharing for £112, beginning on Easter Saturday. Blakes Holiday Homes (06053 2917).

**DERBY:** Ribber Hall, Matlock (0629 2795), is about 25 minutes by car from Derby.

A double room with breakfast costs from £62 at Easter. **PRESTON:** Barton Grange Hotel, Preston (0772 862551). From £32.75 per person for two nights for dinner, bed and breakfast.

**HALLATON:** Belmont, De Montfort Street, Leicester (0533 544773). Dinner, bed and breakfast, £55 per person per night. Best Western. Post House Hotel, Braunstone Lane, Leicester (0533 896688). Dinner, bed



In the ring: a traditional English game of marbles at Easter

and breakfast £26 per person per night sharing a double room. Singles £32. Trusthouse Forte.

**HALIFAX:** Holdsworth House, Halifax (0422 240024, closed Easter Monday). Double room with breakfast, £63. Weekend break rate £70 per couple for a one-night stay with dinner and breakfast. Two nights £130. The George St George's Square, Huddersfield (0484 25444). Dinner, bed and breakfast from £19 per person per night.

**BIDDENDEN:** Tudor Arms Hotel, Rye Road, Hawkthorpe (0505 2512). Easter rate from £55 per person for two nights, dinner, bed and breakfast. Best Western. Kennel Holt Hotel, Cranbrook (0580 712 032).

Minimum booking three nights. Dinner, bed and breakfast, early morning and afternoon tea, £56 per person per night. At Brissenden, in a development of converted farm buildings with an indoor swimming pool, tennis and sauna. Blakes Holiday Homes have self-catering units to sleep up to 10. A four-person apartment costs £185 for one week, beginning April 18.

## Up, up and away by hot-air balloon

The most conspicuous manifestation of Easter this year is sure to be the launch of a hot-air balloon modelled on Fabergé's Rosebud egg.

The balloon, which stands 25 metres high before lift-off, is based on the egg given by Czar Nicholas II to his wife, Alexandra, on Easter morning 1895. Weather permitting, its ascent from the Villa Favorita at Lugano, Switzerland, on Easter Monday will precede the opening of Wednesday of an exhibition of Fabergé's Fantasies from the Forbes Magazine Collection.

Visitors are advised to travel by lake steamer from the centre of Lugano to the Villa Favorita.

Hotel beds in the Lugano and the immediate area are already scarce. A double room with breakfast at the four-star Hotel Belmonte at Castagnola (010 41 91 514033) costs from £40. The Lugano Tourist Office on 010 41 91 214664 may be able to advise on local vacancies as the holiday draws nearer.

at the Hotel Ikaros in Aghios Nikolaos, departing on April 14, costs £199.

Few of the traditional celebrations throughout Italy are more dramatic than Florence's *Scoppio del Carro*, the explosion of the cart on Easter Sunday, when a huge gilded pagoda packed with fireworks is set off by a dove-shaped rocket, sent from the high altar of the cathedral down a steel cable into the square during the Gloria in Excelsis. Magic of Italy (01-734 9555).

Florence is a popular Easter destination and beds are now hard to find. Two tour operators with holidays still to sell are Kierker Europe (01-491 7699) and Weekender Cities (01-837 8452). Kierker has a three-night bed and breakfast package from £309. Weekender offers four nights bed and breakfast over the holiday for £359.

## LAST-MINUTE PACKAGE TOURS

Package breaks in the sun are becoming scarce. Tour operators report full flights to many destinations. A spokesman for Thomson Holidays said: "We have so few seats that by the time you get into print you may be creating a demand that we cannot meet."

Those who have not already booked their escape to the sun "will need to be very flexible". The places most likely to have vacancies now are the Spanish coasts and the Balearic Islands. Packages to Greece, says Thomson, are thin on the ground. Thomas Cook has almost none of its own packages left, and says of its travel agency business that "it is verging on the miraculous if agents can find anything" for late-book- ing customers. Falcon Holidays has put on

extra flights to meet Easter demand for Portugal's Algarve and for Palma, Majorca.

Independent travellers, too, must be prepared to take what is left. There are a few cabins available on Brittany Ferries' sailings from Portsmouth to Caen and St Malo on the night of Good Friday, but the night before is fully booked. The same applies to the company's Plymouth to Roscoff sailings.

All Dover to Calais sailings on Good Friday with Townsend Thoresen (0304 203388) are fully booked but spaces are still available earlier and later. Sealink (01-834 8122) has space on the Folkestone to Boulogne route on Good Friday, but very little space, at the last check, on the Newhaven to Dieppe boats, on Dover to Calais sailings or on the Harwich to the Hook.

## SLOPING OFF

Continental flights and beds are in very short supply but there is some skiing available.

Supertavel (01-581 6161) has chalet places in Verbier, Switzerland, Flaine and Meribel in France, with Easter Saturday departures from Gatwick. Prices range from £184 to £199 with the usual breakfast, tea and dinner chalet catering arrangements.

Falcon (01-229 9484) has some Italian ski holidays left in Livigno and Courmayeur. One week's half board in Livigno, in a two-star hotel, departing from Gatwick on Saturday April 18, costs £209. Four can share a self-catering apartment in the same resort for £149 each. In Courmayeur, bed and breakfast in a two-star hotel costs £189 a week, flying from Gatwick on the 18th.

Bladon Lines (01-785 3131) has chalet parties in Verbier.

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**A Canterbury trail**

Continued from previous page

was the destination of his pilgrimage.

If cathedral and poet are to be combined to sing Canterbury's attractions, it may be that the one will have to display the same broad-minded humour as the other. The Wife of Bath was, after all, one of those time-honoured pilgrims of 1387. And, as Chaucer himself observed:

She had a flowing mantle that concealed Large hips, her heels spurred sharply under that, In company she liked to laugh and chat And knew the remedies for love's mischances. An art in which she knew the oldest dances.

As for Chaucer the man, he was coy about his age — "40, or upwards", he replied to an inquiry — so if scholars have to guess at a date of birth around 1342, one thing they know for certain: Britain's most enduring 14th century poet proved that, even in medieval times, it was possible to climb the social ladder.

Not only did he graduate from pageboy to knight but his family enjoyed an even more dramatic improvement of fortune. His grandfather was a Suffolk pub keeper. And his grandfather became Duke of Suffolk.

His first mention in official records came in 1357 when the Countess of Ulster's household accounts revealed

and almost certainly provided the raw material for *The Knight's Tale* and his incomparable romance, *Troilus and Criseyde*.

Meanwhile Chaucer began to climb the civil service tree. Under Edward III, he was made comptroller of customs and subsidies in wools, skins and hides at the Port of London and, under Richard II, comptroller of petty customs, Justice of the Peace for the county of Kent and later Knight of the Shire.

A daily pitcher of wine, awarded to him by King Edward, became an annual fun, and Henry Bolingbroke presented him with a scarlet robe trimmed with fur.

Only for three years was there a hitch in the rise and rise of Geoffrey Chaucer — and it was one of those sudden shifts of power and favour which gave English literature its founding father. John of Gaunt left England on a military exercise in Spain, the Duke of Gloucester took over as principal adviser to the young King Richard and, just before Christmas, 1386, Chaucer was relieved of all rank.

With time on his hands and vast experience of life and travel to draw on, he began to assemble and rhyme the stories which were to be set against the framework of his 1387 pilgrimage to become *The Canterbury Tales*.

By the time John of Gaunt returned to set Chaucer on the upward path again, he had guaranteed his place in literary history.

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## OUT AND ABOUT

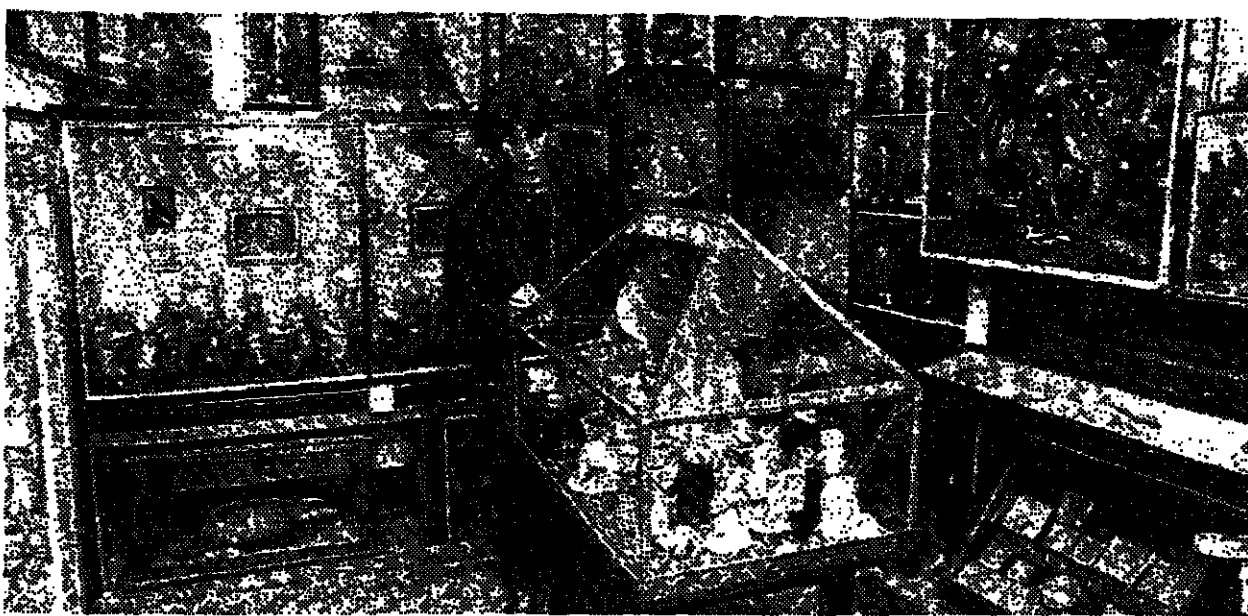
# Inside an old curiosity shop

Potter's Museum of Curiosity has it all — from pickled pigs to stuffed and costumed kittens. Clive Aslet reports

Item 52: "Case containing a mummy's hand, a feather from the King of Italy's hat, a piece of Dr Livingstone's almanac, a menu from Lady-smith 1899, etc." This is a typical entry in the catalogue to Potter's Museum of Curiosity, in Arundel High Street.

"Curiosity" is altogether too bland a word to describe some of the objects on view. Walter Potter (1835-1918), a slightly sorrowful-looking, infinitely patient taxidermist, had an interest in natural history similar to that of the witches in *Macbeth*.

On a shelf near the entrance is a pink and crinkled pair of Siamese piglets, preserved in a bottle. Nothing very delightful in that, you might think — but you have yet to see the deformed duckling, with three eyes, four legs, two beaks and two wings, or the lamb with



Tableaux of the macabre: in Potter's Museum of Curiosity, once-living animals fill the roles that Walt Disney could only draw

two heads. The latter, born on a Sussex farm in 1887, is such a star of the museum that a postcard has been made of it. Perhaps freaks of nature have not lost their power to amaze. A very different attitude to animals is revealed in the famous *tableaux vivants*, or rather *morts*, of fairy tales and rustic scenes, in which all the parts are taken by little stuffed creatures — dressed up, stood

on their hind legs and made to look human. This rather grotesque taste was common enough in the Victorian period, but Potter's scenes reached a peak of elaboration that must have been remarkable even then.

In the Rabbits' Village School I counted no fewer than 48 little bunnies. Devotees call the Kittens' Wedding Potter's masterpiece, but I

prefer the case called *Athletic Toads*, where 18 of the amphibians are shown exercising on swings and seesaws.

It was the Death of Cock Robin, containing 98 specimens of British birds, that got Potter started: it was completed in 1861, after seven years' assembling and stuffing. It is altogether too morally improving for my taste.

But there you have it: the appeal of Potter's exhibits is not only sentimental. He had a typically Victorian devotion to local history — witness the musket ball fired during the Siege of Arundel in the Civil War.

But, more than that, the museum demonstrates the idea that history is being made every day. One bird display is mounted on a thorn bush

"actually responsible for the death of Lord De Clifford in 1909" (his car ran into it while avoiding a cart).

The few exhibits added to the museum since Potter's death maintain his high level of idiosyncrasy. A bosomy pink silk number bears the legend: "This dress was worn by Miss E Taylor of Fittleworth at the Arundel pageant of 1923." A stuffed hen called *Duplicate*, champion egg-layer of 1952, was equally well worthy of inclusion. However, my favourite is the case of newspaper clippings illustrating a visit to the museum by Diana Dors.

Despite the visitor's sense that he has stumbled into a cross between an Oxfam shop and a circus freak show, despite the layers of dust which have built up with astonishing Victorian authenticity — considering that Potter's Museum has been in the present building for only 15 years — it is still very much a going concern. No fewer than 30,000 visitors came last year.

Potter's Museum of Curiosity, 6 High Street, Arundel (0803 882420) is open 10.30am-1pm and 2.15-5.30pm (Mon-Fri) 11am-1pm and 2.15-5.30pm (Sat) and 2.15-5.30pm (Sun).

## OUTINGS

**INTERNATIONAL CLOWN CONVENTION:** 200 British clowns, plus others from America, Australia, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Holland and Italy converge on the seaside town this weekend. Clown procession starts today at 10.30am. Classic Clown shows today at 2.0pm and 4.0pm; Gala Show tonight at 9.0pm and children's shows today and tomorrow 1.30pm, 3.0pm and 4.30pm. Magic lantern shows both days. Also a sea-front clown fair, market, free fireworks display tonight at 8pm. Tomorrow, clowns' service at St Mary's Church, South Bersted.

**BOGNOR REGIS, West Sussex.** Today and tomorrow, most events take place in and around the Bognor Regis centre, with shows at the Royal Hall and Alexander Theatre (0243 865551).

**17TH CENTURY SUNDAY: RIDDLEDEN REVELS:** From tomorrow, on the first Sunday in every month throughout the season, dancers in period costumes will give displays of medieval and Renaissance dances on the town — if time — or in the hall itself. Afternoon teas.

**RIDDLEDEN HALL, Bradford Road, Keighley, West Yorkshire.** (0535 607075). Tomorrow 2-6pm, adult £1.30 child 60p.

**BRITISH SUB-AQUA FESTIVAL OF UNDERWATER SPORT:** Exhibition devoted to all aspects of diving. Displays, diving equipment, supervised "try it" sessions, underwater hockey competitions. Crystal Palace National Sports

Centre, Ledington Road, London SE20 (01-778 0131). Today, tomorrow 10am-5pm, adult £3 child £1.50.

**DAFFODIL DAY:** 18th century Georgian house and gardens containing thousands of daffodils open to the public. Afternoon teas. Langley Park, Langley Street, Norwich, Norfolk (0508 20210). Tomorrow 2-6pm, adult 60p child 40p.

**BRITISH INTERNATIONAL ANTIQUES FAIR:** Major antiques fair with 124 exhibitors selling furniture, clocks, barometers, oil paintings, watercolours, prints, silver, porcelain, carpets and other antiques. Full catering facilities. Birmingham Exhibition Centre, Birmingham (021-780 4141). Today 11am-8pm, tomorrow 11am-8pm, admission £4 includes catalogue.

**COMIC MART:** Rare and out of print comics, science fiction and fantasy, film and television books and magazines. Central Hall, Westminster, London SW1. Today noon-4.30pm, free.

**INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC & MEDICAL INSTRUMENT FAIR:** Fifty exhibitors from Britain, USA, France and Holland selling instruments from slide rules and theodolites to telescopes and compasses. The Gloucester Hotel, Harrington Gardens, Gloucester Road, London SW7. Tomorrow 10am-5pm. Admission £1.50.

Judy Froshaug

## SHOPPING



Carried away: (on head) Panasonic RF H3 ultra-compact FM stereo headphone radio (£38.95); (in right hand) Sanyo RP5065 (£29.99); (in left hand) Sharp QT212 (£35) from Harrods; (round neck, clockwise from top left) Toshiba RP 2056 credit card-size FM/AM tuner (£39.99); Philips D1720 MW/FM radio (£15.99); Pye TR 6108 ultra-thin pocket radio (£14.99); Panasonic RF H70 ultra-slim FM/AM radio with rechargeable battery and charger unit (£79.99); Philips D1858 micro radio clock (£16.99)

## Tuning in style

Radios are the latest fashion accessory. Far from being eclipsed by personal stereos and portable compact disc players, it is estimated that around nine million receivers, in one form or other, will be sold in the UK this year.

Personal stereo tuners the size of credit cards are most likely to find favour with streetwise gadget fans. Fitting neatly into pocket or palm, these tiny tuners offer FM/AM or MW/FM reception and come with lightweight stereo earphones or collapsible headphones. Some have belt-clips or arm-bands; others offer rechargeable batteries and charger unit.

Tuning in to City prices becomes infinitely more palatable on a colour-conscious sports tuner like Sony's tiny FM stereo radio (£55), which comes in eye-catching designer yellow. It's water-resistant and has a head-band, arm-band and battery charger. But traditionalists may feel that Sony's slick, black, credit card-sized FM stereo tuner, also £55, fits in better with the pin-stripes.

Even tinier is Panasonic's FM stereo headphone radio (£38.95), which incorporates the radio circuitry within the collapsible headgear and eliminates any spaghetti-like wiring between ears and body.

Back home, it seems that Art Deco-style radios and reproduction wirelenses from the Thirties and Forties may soothe the sharp tones of today's harsher news stories. But yuppie households seem more attuned to the profusion of shortwave options offered by the latest portable, digital, multi-band models, many of which, like Grundig's Satellit 400 International World Receiver, incorporate features from professional radio.

Finding the right station on radios which offer pre-set, push-button selectors is a one-finger, one-button affair. So a radio/alarm clock like Grundig's Sono 700 (£36.95) is essential for early risers.

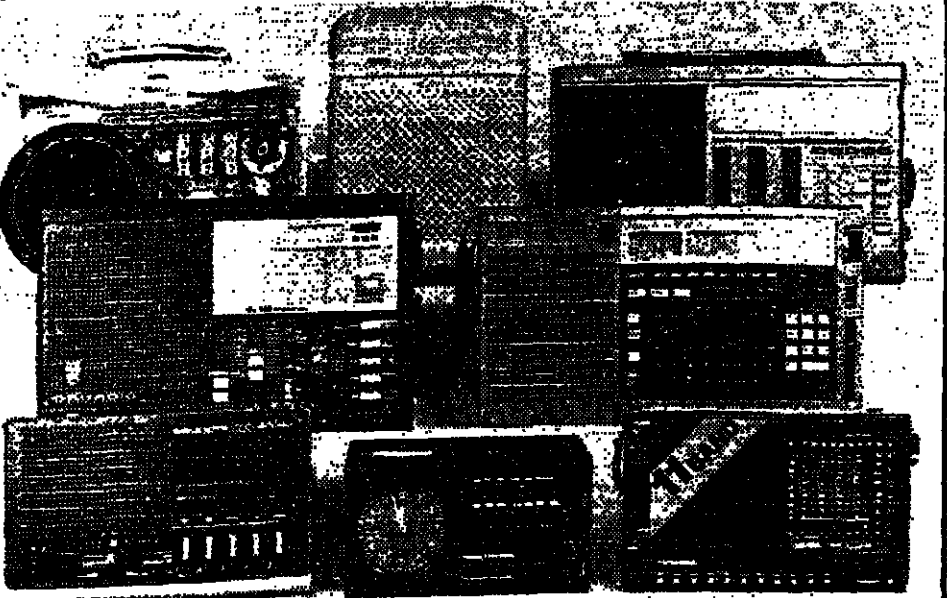
New for this summer, Sony is introducing a compact digital radio/alarm clock with solid state memory. This means that a message re-

corded before you go to sleep plays when the alarm goes off.

The latest Ross RE 5500 portable (£29.99) elevates new technology to an art form. With the body colour in white, black or grey emphasizing its uncluttered lines, it has six pastel colour-coded push buttons along the top, offering pre-set controls for six selected stations — three FM, two medium wave and one long wave. Mains or battery-operated it is available from Harrods, Selfridges and Authentics.

Nicole Swengley

Unless stockists are given, all radios are available from leading electrical retailers. Argon, 72 Neal Street, London WC2 (01-240 5051); Authentics, 42 Shelton Street, London WC2 (01-240 8845); Last Detail Interiors, 341 King's Road, London SW8 (01-351 8294); Ligne Roset, 130 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1 (01-434 2071); Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW7 (01-730 1234); Selfridges, Oxford Street, London W1 (01-629 1234)



Listening posts: (top row, from left) clear perspex radio with neon light (£198) from Argon; Ross RE 5500 pre-set radio (£29.99); Grundig Satellit 400 (£179.95); (centre, left to right) Grundig Yacht Boy 700 (£99.95); Sony ICF 2001D digital multi-band (£350); (bottom row, from left) Grundig Sono 700 and 200 radio/alarm clocks, both £36.95; Toshiba RP F11 multi-band radio (£79.99)

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## THE ARTS

## Exploding the myths

When the team of American F-111s bombed Tripoli a year ago, it was in retaliation for a series of terrorist attacks blamed on Colonel Gaddafi and his regime. "Our evidence is direct," said President Reagan on national television. "It is precise. It is irrefutable." Twelve Minutes Over Tripoli (BBC1) set out to prove conclusively that whatever else his evidence might have been, it was none of these.

Producer Tom Bower discovered a tangle of intercepted intelligence information which, helped along by the careful planting of leaks and the measure of wish-fulfillment, allowed the Americans to feel justified in "punishing" Gaddafi. The US administration was presented as some ponderous, reasonably patient and bumbling elephant which finally decided to kick away the tiresome chibabahu yapping around its ankles. They appeared to take pride in the fact that they had the restraint not to just squash it entirely.

Bower's evidence came from such diverse sources that at

## TELEVISION

one point the programme resembled the Eurovision Song Contest. Austria came in with the information that the batch of hand grenades were dubious proof while Germany and Italy agreed on a lack of clarity about the words of envoy Vernon Walters. The American view became murkier as the element of doubt became clearer.

In an embryonic form, *Through The Keyhole* (ITV) had a weekly slot on TV-ann where its element of licensed voyeurism made a perfect companion to the music. Now it is a much bigger, brasher affair. The formula would appear to be fail-safe. Not only is it the first quiz show to capitalize on the current mania for exposing celebrity taste in home decor but it has David Frost as cheerleader.

Such was house guide Loyd Grossman's assured languor that you would never guess he started English life as a rock musician called Jack Bronx. He trespassed with such an irritating confidence that I kept on expecting him to run his finger along the window sill for a dust check.

Alexandra Shulman

## Absence of the heart and humanity

## OPERA

## Simon Boccanegra Coliseum

For quite a bit of this season the ENO has been showing off its two very different aspects of its personality. Call it the two faces of Eve, the Odette-Odile syndrome, or what you will. On the one hand there is the cherishable, admirable ENO, casting with care, bringing on its singers and showing scrupulous musical preparation, especially when Mark Elder is in the pit. Then comes the other and unlikeable ENO, a haven for opera producers out for self-indulgence, determined to twist the intentions of composers and librettists alike into the most brutal of shapes.

The dichotomy is demonstrated all too clearly in the new production of Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*, the first at the Coliseum. Musically it is on a very high level. Mark Elder's feeling for this score is evident from the start and is transmitted through every section of the orchestra. The cast has no weakness and several sturdy pillars of strength, starting with Jonathan Summers in the title role. But the framework is wretched: an ignoble structure for one of Verdi's noblest and most serious operas, as Giorgio Strehler demonstrated at La Scala well over a decade ago.



Vivat Bacchus: Bonaventura Bottone (left) with Tom Haensen as the dictator Osmin

There are, to get the worst over first, David Fielding's sets and costumes. The style which characterized his *Xerxes* at this address is thrown out to make way for a calculated mish-mash in which the Genoa's Plebians wear working black and look as though they have stepped out of *Cavalleria rusticana* while the Patricians are dressed in the robes and armour of office. It matters not that a sword is worn with a trench coat — very much this season's fashionable garment after the Jonathan Miller *Tosca*.

The sea, scene of Boccanegra's greatest triumphs and an element rarely far from his thoughts, as the orchestra constantly reminds us, is represented by a slip of boulders stage left and a couple of scrawny fish-eating birds. For the rest the action is played against a monochrome background with occasional slits to let in a view of the sky or the angry populace. What has all this got to do with Verdi's 14th-century Genoa, it may well be asked. But there is a school of thought that every topographical or historical reference in the libretto must be resolutely expunged. Call it Zeffirelli-phobia.

David Alden does go to some effort to elucidate the plot started by Piave and then reworked by Montanelli and later Boito. There are successes and outright failures. The Prologue, usually a stumbling block for audiences new

to Boccanegra is reasonably lucid, but he then obfuscates everything by having the coffin carrying the dead Maria roll out a corpse who promptly turns into the Amelia/Maria of 25 years later. What a way for the soprano to begin her major aria!

Predictably, from the team responsible for the ENO's *Mazeppa*, the production concentrates on the poisoning and plotting in Boccanegra, old Verdian themes, and pushes aside paternal love and patriotism, even older Verdian themes. The brutal — leather jackboots and metal spikes on the trapdoors — puts down anything that might smack of sentimentality. The result is a Boccanegra without heart and humanity, the two essential ingredients of the work.

Despite these mighty obstacles Mr Alden must take some of the credit for drawing performances from his principals that are as dramatically sure as they are sharply etched. Jonathan Summers, as Hilary Finch noted a couple of days ago, has had plenty of time to observe Boccanegra at Covent Garden while singing Paolo. He has learnt well as his lonely Doge of Genoa is a man reluctant to lead, much happier in his dreams and memories. The warmth of the Summers's baritone makes this the most sympathetic of portrayals; he may lack total vocal authority in the Council Chamber *concertato* but that is likely to come.

Alan Opie's Paolo, a brilliant thug, is so assured in every way that there is every chance that he will be following in the Summers's footsteps and be singing the title role before long. There is an impressive debut from Clive Bayley as Pietro, cast as the neurotic, villainous sidekick Richard Widmark once pleased to play. Arthur Davies's Gabriele Adorno is one of the most effective I have seen, not the usual anonymous noble but a bloodied fighter until at the end he appears to join the ranks of the gauleiters. The tenor is in resplendent shape, especially in the Act III aria.

Gwynne Howell cuts down on the duplicity of Fiesco, turning him into a shaggy figure — of mane but never of voice. Janice Cairns lacks the ideal creaminess of soprano for Amelia, especially in "Come in questa bruna" but she made up for it with the overall power of her performance, especially in the recognition scene with her father.

With such vocal riches around and Mark Elder in such fine form why are the trappings so glum? The used car lot *Carmen* and the lopsided *Tosca* of earlier in the season will not be with us forever. But Boccanegra should have been built to last. It was, after all, the opera which the ENO introduced to us back in the Sadler's Wells days.

John Higgins

## The Abduction from the Seraglio Grand, Leeds

It was the sudden seriousness of *The Abduction* that so impressed when Graham Vick's production was mounted by the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis last summer: now the same clarity and gravity have been brought to bear on the work in Opera North's restaging, with decor and demeanour combining to restrain as tightly as possible any leanings towards pantomime. One sees only an impenetrable stone wall, so that the necessity of escape is silently asserted all through; though high up there is a big square hole to give a taste of the exotic in the shape of a palm tree and blue sky, and at ground level there is a mul-

## Clarity and gravity

tiplicity of doors to allow the admission of the other essential feature, that of comedy.

The effect is to make the opera at one with *The Magic Flute*, *Così* and *Figaro* as a relief of true love that of Blonde and Pedrillo, both of whom are fully serious characters in this production, as well as that of Constanze and Belmonte. Of course, it is not possible to deprive Osmin of his broad strokes of absurdity, but his power over Blonde is still real: the recent history of dictatorships ought to be enough to establish the plausibility of a character who is at once silly and dangerously threatening; and the Dutch singer Tom Haensen relishes the mixture, as he relishes also his accent, in a cast consisting



Genoa encounter: Janice Cairns and Arthur Davies

otherwise of native English speakers. Blonde also becomes a more interesting role: a sourette with solidity, and an ability to suffer. Elizabeth Gale brings an appropriate strength to her singing, and avoids anything coquettish in her behaviour: she is quite as determined as Constanze to be out of the harem. Similarly, Bonaventura Bottone as Pedrillo shows a real concern for her, and sings with the fresh naturalness of a tenor Papageno.

As Belmonte, Laurence Dale is appropriately more mannered: the youthful bloom on his face is still there, but he is singing with a new authority and depth. The only problem is that these estimable qual-

ities sometimes deprive him of the last ounce of flexibility required for some of the more ornate music.

Sally Wolf's Constanze also has some difficulty in maintaining poise, though she, too, is a musically singer who gives much pleasure. What is disconcerting is the contrast between the glassy, sometimes even harsh upper voice and the darker lower register, though both are capable of beautiful effects.

I hope that Ewart James Walters will relax enough to make a hit more of the part of Pasha Selim, who rightly becomes the central character in this production, so much of which is concerned with silence or minimal movement. It is, however, a production that harmonises perfectly with the tone of the music.

Paul Griffiths

## Lost soul in a void

## CONCERT

BBCSO/Joly/  
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Another BBC Symphony Orchestra concert, another miserably empty hall, another deadline missed by Bernard Rands for the completion of his *Requiescant*. It was duly replaced by the London premiere of David Bedford's First Symphony.

Such populist music as this is rarely lasting unless it generates some sort of nostalgic appeal, and one cannot imagine that happening in this particular case. Its manner is derivative but there would be nothing wrong with that if the piece seemed to be going somewhere. Instead, in its attempts to be organic, it simply juggles with itself.

Thus the first movement's overlapping, repeated note

groups overlap and repeat themselves. The slow movement's climax duly climaxes. The finale dutifully shouts loud and with a certain razzmatazz. But little is revealed other than a glossy surface and a ready gesture.

More of Bedford's personality was on show in his *Two Poems on Words of Kenneth Patchen*, for unaccompanied chamber, written back in 1963.

The multi-layered textures stretched the resources of the BBC Singers almost to breaking point. Simon Joly conducted both works efficiently.

Some might say that Shostakovich's Seventh Symphony, the infamous *Lenin* grad, is itself quite empty. Unfair though such an assertion would be it remains one of the most problematic of this composer's works.

There are no heroics here, and the sinister march of the first movement, as well as the climax of the last, surely represents the evil of all tyrannies.

Stephen Pettitt

## Fired with a fever

## THEATRE

## Macbeth Barbican

Played in under two-and-a-half hours without interval, Adrian Noble's production presents this tragedy as a sick dream where the supernatural mingles with projections of the unconscious. Since its appearance at Stratford last November, it has now acquired an awesome Lady Macbeth in Sinead Cusack (who gallantly went on last year with a broken collar bone). But the events are still enacted through the eyes and inside the head of Macbeth himself. To that extent it remains a one-man show.

If there is any one-line clue to Jonathan Pryce's electrifying performance it is his wife's accusation that he "would not play false, and yet would wrongfully". He is a man of ferocious ambition who can only act by taking orders. The witches — a quietly business-like trio led by Dillys Lave — authorize his first move; and afterwards he relies on the promptings of his own fantasy. The air-borne dagger draws him; the bell "invites" him; his mind is full of



Jonathan Pryce (Macbeth) with child apparitions

scorpions — so, whatever crime he commits, it is the scorpions' fault.

The performance that takes shape around these alibis is one of feverish self-justification. Speeches traditionally played as ruthless or world-weary come over as desperate arguments in his own defence; whether taking minor characters by the hand to make his point, or pleading to his unseen judges in the audience. Images of lost innocence pervade the stage: particularly children, who romp on with a toy box to play the apparitions and then return as Macduff's doomed brood. He also sees himself as one of the boys: rolling around on the floor with Banquo (Hugh Quarshie), burlesquing his own fit for the banquet guests.

and even clowning about with Seyton as the net closes in.

Taken as a whole, the performance shows a man of action with an obsessive need for total safety; and who falls to pieces when pikes come slicing around him through the castle walls like saws in a conjurer's cabinet. He remains painfully vulnerable to the last.

Pryce is a master of dramatic surprise and what rivets your attention from moment to moment are the innumerable ways in which he shows this passive guilt-ridden joker being possessed by a lurking monster. Bob Crowley's shadowy, self-sealing set is another triumph of the production.

Irving Wardle

## Lines in a twist

The Merchant of Venice  
Royal Exchange,  
Manchester

"In sooth, I know not why I am so sad," complains Malcolm Rennie's portly Antonio in the irritable tone of a victim of acid indigestion. Sensibly, he breaks off work for a little lie-down, only to get a deafening earful from Gratiano who clambers all over him bawling the "Sir Oracle" speech.

Something very odd is going on in Braham Murray's production. I have never heard so much empty shouting from the Royal Exchange stage, where character after character arrives locked into fixed attitudes that drive through the lines regardless of sense. Leaving Antonio to catch up with his argosies on the office VDU, the show brings on a Launcelot Gobbo (Renny Krupinski) who delivers his opening routine through hysterical tears and then switches to rough practical joking when his father arrives. Later on, we also meet a bespectacled Argon who makes his choice of Di Seymour's sumptuous mobile caskets as if on a lecture platform.

All these examples lie outside the central scenes. It seems that Mr Murray has pushed ugliness and excess to the margins of the play so as to clear a space for reconciliation at its heart.

This certainly yields some

striking and persuasive effects.

After the parade of loud flashy playboys at Antonio's bedside, it comes as a convincing shock to see Alan Parnaby's modestly unobtrusive Bassanio cringing with embarrassment at the prospect of asking for yet another handout. Another surprise is Tony Porcio's quietly dignified Morocco: though, in this scene, the production shows its hand by amending Porcio's racist last line (substituting "condemnation" for "complexion").

The feeling that Mr Murray is out to domesticate this incurably contentious masterpiece is concerned by the two lead performances — Harriet Walter's Portia, and Ewan Skjoberg's Shylock, which respectively bring sexual and religious hostilities to an uneasy peace.

Mr Skjoberg is the most affable usurer ever to grace the Rialto. He hates only because he is driven to it and the only harsh words he speaks up to the interval are those in imitation of his Christian tormentors. Vocally, he is apt to link words with prolonged vowels and "er" suffixes; but the character is firm and projected with an amazing facility for moving from *sotto voce* into top register lamentations, and making his biggest climaxes in a *fortissimo* whisper.

Looks aside, Miss Walter (she is a young barrister to the life) has the precise nervous intelligence that elsewhere renders her a chilly object of Bassanio's adoration.

Irving Wardle

## Jolly Jacobean Goon Show

As the Jacobean-style Swan Theatre is to the RSC's Stratford season so is the Mermaid now to its London base, the third place to which the Swan productions can transfer. The stage end has been fitted with a wooden gallery, and rows of seats flank the new thrust stage.

Given the fundamental architectural difference the Mermaid has achieved something of a Hans Christian Andersen trick and become a sort of Swan.

Trevor Nunn's conflation of Thomas Heywood's two rollicking plays about the fair barmaid of Plymouth was welcomed by Irving Wardle at Stratford last year. Played as written, this long romantic adventure would hardly do but by putting it into the hands of performers self-consciously performing — some of them expertly pretending to be stricken with nerves — the

The Fair Maid of the West  
Mermaid

production generates a bouncing charm that carries it most of the way.

At the start Joe Melia steps out in armour vainly trying to interest us in *Henry V* or *Trilby*. Pelted with bread rolls by members of the company placed among us, and yelling for "Bess Bridges", he gives in and off we go.

Briefly, Bess's lover has fled the country after slaying a ruffian. Brought the false news of his death, she hires a ship, paints it black (a detail ignored in John Napier's otherwise ship-shape design) and sets off to recover his body.

On the high seas they miss each other by seconds and end up in Morocco where Joe Melia reappears with a cush-

ion on his head at the King of Fez, picks his way through mock-heroic lines and grants a happy end.

Longeurs occur when Trevor Nunn tries to make us take the sad parts seriously, whereas we cannot so easily switch from jolly pranks to pathos. And there are as many endings as in a Goon Show symphony, more than the joke can bear.

But along the way there are splendid joys. The braggart Roughman, left dangling on a rope above the audience, is a plum of a part in which Pete Postlethwaite builds up a warm rapport with us. Simon Russell Beale plays assorted messengers twirling with stage fright. And as the sweet-voiced Bess, Imelda Staunton is a marvel of self-reliance and sparkle.

Jeremy Kingston

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## The past repeats itself

From Byzantium to El Greco  
Royal Academy of Arts

The big loan exhibition of icons which inaugurates the Royal Academy's newly refurbished Diploma Galleries, *From Byzantium to El Greco* (until June 21), has, at the last moment, been shorn of its intended climax, our first chance to see the El Greco *Dormition* discovered in 1963 in a Syros church. However, to make up as far as possible the badly damaged *Saint Luke Painting an Icon of the Virgin* has been substituted, so that at least we have in London two of the three known very early El Grecos, painted before he had left Greece and when he was still known by his proper name of Domenikos Theotokopoulos. Of course, to true icon-

## GALLERY

lovers such belated variations may well seem, far from being a climax, to be sublimely beside the point. The exhibition, which comes entirely from Greek collections, concerns itself with a form which hovers, for outsiders, uncomfortably between the object of piety and the *objet d'art*. The way that they are presented at the Academy, picked out in pools of light amid the warm, black-draped darkness, emphasizes the reverential. And indeed, before some of the grander, simpler, earlier works it is difficult not to be swayed by something not unlike holy awe.

But on the other hand, these strictly stereotyped images can very easily become repetitious and allow one's attention to wander, hardly more holy in effect than some sequential work by Andy Warhol. No doubt it is our misfortune that we see them from the wrong side of Romanticism and the cult of personality in the arts, when we should accept them rather as the impersonal products of primitive mass-production.

Nor so primitive either, to judge by the patterns the show also includes, along with some fascinating information about how the images proliferated. But the thought does keep intruding that, with icons as with Egyptian temples, when you've seen one, you've seen them all.

In this frame of mind, the first signs of decadence, the first intrusions of notions culled from Italian primitives and then Italian not-so-primitives, come as a blessed relief. At least the works on show take on some separate identity, though whether when they do so they can still properly be called icons is another matter. Michael Damaskinos's *St. Sergius, Bacchus and Justina*, who appear to be vying for space while trampling on a rather under-sized dragon, belong to another world of almost baroque fantasy. The Akra Tapeinosis is moving, but not noticeably Greek.

And then there is the early El Greco, *The Adoration of the Magi* would be fascinating to compare with later Spanish work, but is not particularly good in itself, caught dangerously between the primitive and the sophisticated. The *Saint Luke*, though sadly defaced, is more interesting, mixing a quite modern convention for the figure of the painter with a strictly traditional approach to the icon he is shown painting.

These two works alone would make the show of general interest. But for the most part it seems to be preaching to the converted.

John Russell Taylor

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## THE WEEK AHEAD



## BOOKS

**NOVEL DAME:** Rebecca West is the subject of Victoria Glendinning's biography which tells, with sympathy but clear eyes, of the turbulent life of one of our great literary women. West married with suffragettes, had an affair with H.G. Wells, was an unmarried mother, became a radical Socialist and then an opponent of Communism. She was a novelist, critic, travel writer and investigative journalist. One of our finest biographers tells her story. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £14.95, published on Thursday.



## CONCERTS

**ROMANCE:** Raymond Leppard conducts the English Chamber Orchestra in the first of three concerts titled "The Dawn of Romanticism 1800-50". In each a major symphony of the period will be performed, together with relevant but less familiar works. This week it is Mendelssohn's Symphony No 4, "Italian". Spohr's Violin Concerto No 8 "Gesange-Szene" (soloist Lorraine McAslan) and Weber's *Abu Hassan* Overture. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London (01-928 3191, cc 01-928 8800), Tuesday, 7.45pm.



## GALLERIES

**COTTAGE LIFE:** Edward Bawden's art is quintessentially English. For 60 years he has illustrated, in painting and in prints, the unique spirit of our architecture and landscape. Now 84, he has recently focused on the mysterious interiors of his old Essex cottage. *Spectres of the artist* and his black cat, Emma Nelson, lurk somewhere in each watercolour, on show at the Fine Arts Society, 148 New Bond Street, London W1 (01-629 5116), Monday-Friday 9.30am-5.30pm, Saturday 10am-1pm, free, from Monday until April 30.



## THEATRE

**THE JONES BOY:** Griff Rhys Jones transports that manic stare and jutting jaw from the television screen to the stage, as the central figure of Bertold Brecht's *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*. Written four years after World War II, and set in Chicago, this political parody about a gangster (not a million miles removed from Hitler) is directed by David Gilmore, and also features Linal Haft, Brian Glover and Hugh Paddick, and opens on Tuesday night at the Queens Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue (01-439 3849/4031).



## RADIO

**FLOWERY BIRTHDAY:** Gardeners' Question Time, Radio 4's hardy perennial, celebrates its 40th anniversary with a special edition recorded at the Old Palace, Hatfield House. The questions will be posed by celebrities who garden - among them Richard Briers, Germaine Greer and Mary Whitehouse. This will be the 1,727th edition of the programme which in its time has answered more than 17,000 questions. Its timeless formula and restful after-Sunday-lunch feel should ensure another 40 years. Tomorrow, 2-2.30pm.



## FILMS

**TORN TOWN:** Isabella Rossellini is the local siren and Dennis Hopper the evil incarnate in *Blue Velvet* (18). Kyle MacLachlan plays the wholesome hero caught in a vortex of sex and pain after discovering a disembodied ear covered in ants. David Lynch further enhances his high reputation for surreal nightmare in this tale about the placid surface of an American small town being violently ripped apart. Lumière (01-836 0691). Screen on the Hill (01-435 3365), Gate Notting Hill (01-221 0220), from Friday.

## THEATRE OPENINGS

**DIARY OF A SOMEBODY:** John Lahr's adaptation of the diaries of Joe Orton is now a full-length play, with Oliver Parker as Orton. London N1 (01-226 1916). Previews from Wed; opens Apr 15.

**EVERY MAN IN HIS HUMOUR:** The Ben Jonson comedy of Elizabethan London life. Directed by John Caird. Mermaid (01-236 5568/638 8891). From Wed, press night Apr 13. In repertory.

**THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD:** Patrick Barlow and Jim Broadbent in Barlow's spoof. Tricycle, 268 Kilburn High Road, London NW6 (01-328 8628). Previews from Wed; opens Apr 13.

**THE HEAT OF THE DAY:** Adapted from the World War II Blitz novel by Elizabeth Bowen. Featuring Charon Bourke and Patricia Lawrence. Donmar Warehouse (01-240 8230). Opens Mon.

**HEAVEN BENT, HELL BOUND:** Actors Touring Company present a tragic-comedy by Tirso de Molina, translated and adapted by John Clifford. Bridge Lane Theatre, London SW11 (01-828 8828). Opens Tues.

**THE HOLE IN THE TOP OF THE WORLD:** World premiere of Fay Weldon play. The Orange Tree, New Road, Richmond-upon-Thames (01-490 3633). Previews Thurs. Opens Fri.

**SARCOPHAGUS:** European premiere of the first play about the Chernobyl disaster by Soviet journalist Vladimir Gubarev, first press man on the scene. The Pit (01-638 8891). From Thurs. Opens Apr 16.

**THREE SISTERS:** Imaginative new production by Elijah Moshinsky. Greenwhich Theatre (01-858 7755).

**THE HENRYS:** Michael Bogdanov's impressive modern-dress productions, with Michael Pennington as Prince Hal and Henry V. Old Vic Theatre (01-828 7616).

**OUT OF TOWN**

**BROMLEY:** Corpsel: First date on a national tour for Gerald Moon's comedy thriller, with Tom Baker, Jack Watling. Churchill (01-460 6677). Opens Wed.

**DARLINGTON:** The Misanthrope: Cambridge Theatre Company begins a national tour of the Molière comedy classic. Civic (0325 486555). Opens Tues.

**EDINBURGH:** Wallace, Guardian of Scotland: Premiere of Patrick Evans play about the early years of the war of independence in Scotland, presented by the Theatre Co-Operative. Traverse (031 226 2633). Opens Tues.

**HULL:** The Dock: New play by Phil Woods for Hull Truck Company, directed by John Godber. Spring Street (0482 23638). Previews Tues. Opens Wed.

**LANCASTER:** Animal Farm: Regional premiere of Peter Hall's adaptation of the novel by George Orwell. Duke's Playhouse (0524 66645). Opens Wed.

**FILMS ON TV**

**DESTINY RIDES AGAIN (1935):** Smashing comedy-romance. Western, with James Stewart as the milk-drinking purist deputy sheriff and Marlene Dietrich as the saloon girl with a heart of gold. (Channel 4 today 3.20-5.05pm).

**THE BOFORS GUN (1968):** Gitty, excellently acted (by Nicol Williamson and David Warner) drama of conflict in a British Army barracks. (Channel 4, Fri, 11.15-1.15am).



**The character Antoine Doinel** was first played by Jean-Pierre Léaud (above) as a rebellious runaway in François Truffaut's *The 400 Blows*. He reappeared in the delightful *Stolen Kisses* (1968, Channel 4, Wed, 10-11.45pm, and the first of a four-film Truffaut season) as a young man engagingly meandering his way through various love affairs, jobs and philosophical crises. Doinel is clearly a semi-autobiographical, psychological amalgam of Truffaut and Léaud, and was to crop up in five of the late director's films.

## FILMS OPENINGS

**THE VOYAGE HOME - STAR TREK IV (PG):** The Enterprise team star in the American slice fantasy. Leonard Nimoy directs. Empire (01-437 1234), Cannon Edge Road (01-723 5901), Cannon Bayswater (01-229 4149), from Fri.

**FLIGHT OF THE NAVIGATOR (U):** Joey Cramer as the boy who serves as navigator for a distant planet's space flights. Odéon Marble Arch (01-723 2011), from Fri.

**COLLEGE (U):** One of Buster Keaton's more orthodox silent comedies, revived in a tinted print with live musical accompaniment by the inventive Adrian Johnston. ICA Cinema (01-530 3647), from Fri (matinee performances only).

**HALF MOON STREET (18):** Botched version of Paul Theroux's thriller *Dr. Slaughter*, with Sigourney Weaver as the classy escort girl involved with a political wheeler-dealer (Michael Caine). Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue (01-836 6279), Cannon Pantons Street (01-930 0631), from Fri.

## SELECTED

**84 CHARING CROSS ROAD (U):** Tasty, low-key version of the transatlantic romance between Helene Hanft (Anne Bancroft) and a London antiquarian bookseller (Anthony Hopkins). Curzon Mayfair (01-499 3737).

**THE FIRST NEW WAVE:** The NFT's important French season includes Léon Perret's *Koenigsmark* (Tues) and Volkoff's *La Maison du mystère* (Thurs), a rousing display of Russian emigre magic. National Film Theatre (01-928 3232).

## CONCERTS

**CALM SEA BEETHOVEN:** After the London Bach Orchestra has played Schubert's *Rosamunde* overture, the Forest Choir joins them for Beethoven's seldom-heard *Matata, Moersette und glückliche Fahrt*, Op 112. Murray Stewart conducts. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, cc 01-928 8800) Today 7.45pm.

**PIANIST PLOWRIGHT:** Mozart's Sonata K310, Brahms's *Klaviersonate Op.76*, Liszt's *Fantaisie et Schumann's Carnaval* are performed by Jonathan Plowright. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141). Mon, 7.30pm.

**JARVIS/SNO:** Rimsky-Korsakov's *Russian Easter Festival* overture, Dvorak's *Symphony No 9* "From the New World" are played by Neeme Jarvi and the Scottish National Orchestra. Rephahel Waitfish (cello) solos in

Prokofiev's *Sinfonia Concertante*. Festival Hall, Tues, 7.30pm.

**FROM BUDAPEST:** György Lehel conducts the Budapest Symphony Orchestra in Tchaikovsky's Symphony No 6 "Pathétique" and Jeno Jando solos in Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 2. It should be interesting, also, to hear Liszt's *Tasso - Lamento a Trionfo* from a Hungarian orchestra. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-628 8795), cc 01-638 8891, Tues, 7.45pm.

**ALL MOZART:** The Academy of Ancient Music, its Choir and soloists perform the *Vesperae Solennes de Confessione K339* and excerpts from *Idomeneo*. Ivan Fischer conducts. Barbican Centre, Wed, 7.45pm.

**SALONEN/PHILHARMONIA:** Varied programme from the Philharmonia Orchestra under Esa-Pekka Salonen comprises Ravel's *Ma Mère l'Oye*, Mussorgsky's *Songs and Dances of Death*, with Aage Haugland (bass), and Beethoven's Symphony No 6 Pastoral. Festival Hall, Thurs, 7.30pm.

## DANCE

**BATISHEVA:** Last London performances tonight and tomorrow afternoon and evening by this Israeli dance company. Sadler's Wells (01-278 8916).

**ROYAL BALLET:** Only five performances of *Swan Lake* remain in the present season - two today, then Tues, Wed, Fri. Covent Garden (01-240 1066).

**LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET:** Roland Petit's *Carmen*, Kevin Haigan's *Nocturne* (to Dvorak's music) and a new work by Jyesses Dove. Northcott Theatre, Exeter (0392 54853) this afternoon and evening; Wyvern Theatre, Swindon (0793 24481) Tues, Wed; Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds (0284 69505) Fri, plus April 11.

**NORTHERN BALLET THEATRE:** André Prokofiev's production of *Swan Lake* is given twice today at the Turf Theatre, Scarborough (0723 365789), then Tues to April 11 at the Towngate Theatre, Poole (0202 685222).

## TELEVISION

**THE WINE PROGRAMME:** The sparkling James Robinson returns with a profile of the much abused Beaujolais and a passionate appreciation of the wine from John Arlott. Channel 4, Sat, 8.30-9pm.

**SCREEN TWO: ON THE PALM:** Another bitter drama set amid the demolition sites of once-prosperous northern factories. Amoral tycoon (Philip Jackson) runs into opposition from old-school Labour council leader in a steaming, cryptic script by David Sheaf. BBC2, Sun, 10.05-11.25pm.

**PANORAMA: CHERNOBYL - "NOBODY THOUGHT IT COULD HAPPEN":** First screening of a documentary by Soviet television about the impact of the world's biggest nuclear accident. BBC1, Mon, 9.30-10.10pm.



Natalia Makarova, the Russian-trained ballerina, has written, presented and danced in - four films exploring the definition of a ballerina, and exquisitely illustrating the exacting techniques and subtle national differences in steps. "To be a ballerina means to bring into ideal balance the physical possibilities of your stubborn, imperfect body, with the possibilities of your soul," she says. At 46, swathed in exotic headscarves and Russian accent, she cuts an inspirational figure. The series begins on Wednesday (BBC2, 8-9pm).

**LOST BELONGINGS:** Powerful six-episode love story set against the backdrop of sectarian Belfast. ITV, Tues, 9-10pm, with a repeat on Channel 4, the following Saturday, 9-10pm.

**CALLAGHAN:** In the first of three interviews with Brian Walden, the former Prime Minister turns his guns on the decline in moral standards. Channel 4, Fri, 8.15-9pm.

## RADIO

**FOREST FRONTIER:** The wonderful Anthony Smith visits the depths of the Amazonian rain forest in this new five-part series. Radio 4, tomorrow, 9.30-10pm.

**THE GREEN ROOFS OF WINDERMERE:** The distinctive look of Victorian Windermere - Lakeland stone and green slate - was largely the product of one firm, Paterson's the Builders. David Bean talks to the last surviving Paterson about a remarkable family history. Radio 4, Mon, 7.20-7.45pm.

**LILLIE LANGTRY - ACTRESS:** Mistress to the Prince of Wales, painted by Millais, this extraordinary woman is re-created, with the help of her granddaughter and others, by Hugh Sykes. Radio 4, Wed, 7.45-8.15pm.

**BUSPANE AND BEYOND:** Margaree Lofthouse gives us through all we need to know about retirement. Radio 4, Thurs, 7.40-8pm.

## ROCK

**PAUL SIMON:** The most talked-about concert tour of the year begins its British leg. The exhilarating mixture of New York chic and South African township jive that characterized *Graceland*, will be rendered in all its glory by a 21-piece band which includes Hugh Masekela, Ladysmith Black Mambazo and Miriam Makeba. Tonight and tomorrow, NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133); Tues for six nights (except Fri), Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 (01-589 8212).

**BRONSKI BEAT (WITH JIMI SOMERNEW):** ORDER/SANDIE SHAW/THE GRASSHOPPERS: Aids week benefit. Tonight, Academy, London SW9 (01-326 1022).

**DINGWALLS'S AIDS ALL-DAY BENEFIT:** Split into two sessions the line-up features, among others: noon-8pm, Johnny Pinks, The Jets, Real Rock Drive and Fingerprints; 7pm-2am, Microdisney, The Innates, The Potato Five, Kokomo, The Deltones and Howling Will & The Vee Jays. Today/tonight, Dingwalls, London NW1 (01-267 4967).

**SPEAR OF DESTINY:** Kirk Brandon emerges with new personnel - including Steve and Pete Barnard - for the start of a major comeback tour. Monday, Top Rank, Brighton (0273 732267); Tues, Studio, Bristol (0272 276193); Wed, Titz, Cardiff (0222 26538); Fri, Edinburgh Playhouse (031 557 2590).

**MICHAEL McDONALD:** The former Steeley Dan and Doobie Brothers member, a solo star since 1982, starts his first UK tour. Thurs, Birmingham Odeon (021 643 6101); Fri, Liverpool Empire (051 709 1555).

## JAZZ

**JAMES MOODY:** This veteran bebop saxophonist presents his music with a delightful wit. Mon to Sat, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Firth Street, London W1 (01-439 0747).

**SLIM GAILLARD:** Whether playing bebop piano with the backs of his fingers or telling tall tales in his semi-private language, Gaillard offers a unique form of entertainment. Tues/Wed, Dolphin Brasserie, Dolphin Square, London SW1 (01-828 3207).

**WAYNE SHORTER:** Recent records may suggest that this supremely gifted saxophonist has been losing his way in the jazz-rock desert, but his new band is said to be heading towards the right road. Tonight, Town and Country Club, 9-17 Highgate Road, London NW5 (01-267 3334); tomorrow, Colston Hall, Bristol (0272 22957); Mon, RNCM,

Manchester (061-273 4504); Tues, Nelson Mandela Centre, Sheffield (0742 1); Thurs, Queen's Hall, Edinburgh (031 668 2019).

**ORNETTE COLEMAN:** The return of one of jazz's real giants, his saxophone accompanied by the jolting electric band Prime Time. Tomorrow, Town and Country Club, 9-17 Highgate Road, London NW5 (01-267 3334).



● Shorter and Coleman apart, the Camden Jazz Festival offers a week of unmissable events: the bassist Charlie Haden and a string ensemble performing a work specially commissioned from Gavin Bryars (Mon); Carla Bley's (above) new sextet, featuring the guitarist Hiram Bullock (Tues); Steve Lacy, George Lewis and Misha Mengelberg playing the compositions of Thelonious Monk and Herbie Nichols (Wed); the extraordinary Willem Breuker Kollektief (Thurs); and a solo performance by the Brazilian percussionist Nana Vasconcelos (Fri). From Monday at the Shaw Theatre, 100 Euston Road, London NW1 (01-388 1394, cc 01-387 6293).

## OPERA

**ROYAL OPERA HOUSE:** The first British staging of Verdi's *The King Goes Forth to France*, with performances on Mon, Thurs and April 11 at 7.30pm. Nicholas Hytner directs and Okku Kamu conducts. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1069).

**ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA:** David Alden's new production of *Sargon Bocanegra*, with Jonathan Summers in the title role, continues tonight, Tues and Fri at 7.30pm. The rest of the week features final performances of Jonathan Miller's 1920s-style *Mikado* on Wed at 7.30pm and *Tosca* on Thurs at 8pm. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

**OPERA NORTH:** New production by Graham Vick of Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio*. Performances tonight, Tues, Thurs and April 11 at 7.15pm, in between, on Wed at 7.15pm. David Freeman's new production of *La Bohème*. Grand Theatre, New Briggate, Leeds (0532 459551).

**KENT OPERA:** On Tues and Fri his new *Magic Flute*; on Wed a baroque double-bill of *Orfeo* and *Pygmalion*, and on Thurs and April 11 *Carmen*. All performances start at 7.30pm. Congress Theatre, Eastbourne (0323 36363).

**WELSH NATIONAL OPERA:** Tonight at 8pm the company's outstanding complete presentation of Bizet's *The Trojans* at Oxford (Apollo Theatre, 0865 244544) and April 11 at Southampton (Mayflower Theatre, 0703 229771). Also at Southampton, *La Bohème* on Tues and Thurs, *The Barber of Seville* on Wed and *Un ballo in maschera* on Fri, all at 7.15pm.

**NEW SADDLER'S WELLS OPERA:** Continues its nationwide tour of *Ruddigore*. Mon-Sat at 7.30pm with a 2.30pm matinee on April 11. Theatre Royal, Brighton (0273 28488).

## GALLERIES

**HOME AT LAST:** The Clora Gallery, annexed to the Tate, is the permanent home for the 300 paintings and 20,000 watercolours and sketches James Mafford William Turner bequeathed to the nation. Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (01-821 1313), Mon-Sat 10am-5.50pm, Sun 2-5.50pm, free. From Mon.

**THE ART OF WATERCOLOUR:** Works covering 500 years, from Dürer to Cézanne.

Castle Museum, Norwich (0603 61127), Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, free, until May 17. From today.

**BILL TIDY:** 130 drawings by the long-serving cartoonist. City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh (031-225 2424), Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, free, until May 15. From today.

**ZADOK BEN DAVID:** Israeli artist, whose humorous metal sculptures usually depict animals. City Museum and Art Gallery, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent (0782 273173), Mon-Sat 10.30am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, free, until April 27. From Tues.

**THE SCHOOL OF BOLOGNA 1570-1730:** Carracci, Guido Reni, Domenichino and Guercino are the main contributors in this interesting survey of a lesser-known school of Italian painting. Harari & Johns, 12 Duke Street, London SW1 (01-838 7671), Mon-Fri 10am-9pm, Sat 10am-1pm, free, until May 15. From Wed.

**GERALD BROCKHURST:** A major retrospective for the highest paid society painter of the 1930s. National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC1 (01-930 1552), Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm, free, until May 31. From Fri.

**NANCY SPERO:** Powerful, bitter work by an influential feminist artist. Institute of Contemporary Art, The Mall, London SW1 (01-530 0433), daily 12-5pm, day pass 60p, until April 19.

**ERWIN BLUMENFELD:** A glorious selection of work by the experimental photographer who learnt to fame in America after fleeing Paris in 1941. His earlier surreal work is undoubtedly the best. All the prints - made by Blumenfeld himself - are for sale. The earliest dates from 1928, and the cheapest is \$1,000. Hamiltons Gallery, 13 Carlos Place, Mayfair, London W1 (01-499 9494), until May 9.

## BOOKINGS FIRST CHANCE

**NATIONAL THEATRE:** Booking for May, with premiere of *A Small Family Business*, plus *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Sex Characters*, *In Search of an Author*, *King Lear*, *School for Wives*. National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 2252).

**RSC AT THE SWAN:** Booking for April-August, with new productions of *Hyde Park* by James Shirley, *Titus Andronicus* and *The Jew of Malta*. Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford, Warwickshire (0789 295623, 0789 69191 information).

**NEWCASTLE JAZZ FESTIVAL:** Concerts by, among others, Buddy Guy and Junior Wells, the Horace Silver Quintet, Ian Carr's Nucleus, and George Chisholm. Newcastle Playhouse, and City Hall, May 10-16. Newcastle Playhouse, Barras Bridge, Newcastle (091 232 3421).

**A CHORUS LINE:** First British tour. Venues for July-Aug: Southampton Mayflower Theatre (0703 229771); Edinburgh King's Theatre (031 229 1201); Glasgow King's Theatre (041 552 5861); and Aberdeen His Majesty's Theatre (0224 641122).

**LAST CHANCE**

**TWENTY FOR TODAY:** Top young portrait photographers from the magazine world. Ends today. National Portrait Gallery, 105 High Street, Edinburgh (031 557 1140).

**BRITISH ART IN THE 20TH CENTURY:** Comprehensive survey of painting and sculpture from 1910 to 1970s. Ends tomorrow. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1. (01 734 9052).

**Theatre:** Tony Patrick and Jeremy Kingston; Films: Geoff Brown; Concerts: Mark Harrison; Opera: Hilary Finch; Television: Bob Williams; Radio: Nigel Andrews; Film on TV: Marcel Berlins; Rock: David Sinclair; Jazz: Richard Williams; Dance: John Percival; Galleries: David Lee; Photography: Michael Young; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse.



In good company: Judi Dench joins (clockwise from top left) Lillie Langtry, Vivien Leigh, Glenda Jackson and Peggy Ashcroft

## Walking on hot kohl

Sooner, but usually later, any established actress aspiring to greatness comes face to face with Shakespeare's Cleopatra. It is the classical repertoire's equivalent of fire-walking. Judi Dench, who has rightly won several acting awards - she was named best actress by the Society of West End Theatres three times in four years - was invited to dash across the glowing coals four years ago. When Sir Peter Hall, director of the National Theatre, asked her if she would like to tackle Cleopatra, Dench thought he was joking. "But he went on asking," she said, "so that in the end I knew it wasn't a joke. Apparently he has wanted to do a production of *Antony and Cleopatra* all his life."

She was with the National at the time, simultaneously playing the teenaged encephalitis victim in *A Kind of Alaska* - who falls into a coma-like sleep aged 16 and awakes aged 45 - and Wilde's Lady Bracknell in repertory. Those roles must have told Hall a lot about Miss Dench's range, vital for all those mid-phase mood changes in Shakespeare's Queen of Egypt: the leaps from skittishness to autocracy, the plunges into self-pity and tenderness that have drawn so many famous actresses to the part over the years.

Cleopatras in the past three decades have included Peggy Ashcroft (1953), Janet Suzman in the Royal Shakespeare Company's series, "The Romans" (1972), Glenda Jackson and Helen Mirren - also for the RSC, in 1972 and 1978 respectively - and last year Vanessa Redgrave, who played a tomboyish serpent of the Old Nile at the Haymarket.

The National's first-ever production of *Antony and Cleopatra* matches Dench with Anthony Hopkins - the company's current Lear - as Mark Antony. Understandably tired after nine weeks of rehearsing Cleopatra by day and playing Mrs Pooter in *Mr and Mrs Nobody* at the Garrick by night, Dench expressed trepidation as the first night loomed.

"You've caught me at a very tricky moment, after the final run-through," the latest Cleopatra said. "It's a very frightening time and I am in a state of shock." But having resigned herself to the point of no return, she said she was really rather keen to get on with it.

Angela Wilkes

*Antony and Cleopatra* opens at the Olivier Theatre (01-928 2252) on Thursday. Previews today, Mon-Wed. Opens Thurs. in repertory.







## SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes in Hong Kong

### Bulls, bears and steeds

It's not every city where racing has a tangible effect on the stock market, but in Hong Kong it's a fact of life. As the new racing season opens, down goes the Hang Seng index as a different medium opens up to the speculator — and almost everyone in this gambling-mad colony is never happier than having a flutter, whether on Jardine Matheson or an outsider in the 2.30. A taxi driver told me he had lost on the races but was still ahead on the day because the Hang Seng, after a big fall earlier in the week, had risen 44 points. One stock market analyst said: "International investors have made the market more stable than it used to be — but local punters still make their presence felt." As, of course, they do at the races: on Wednesday night at Happy Valley the betting turnover was £30 million; for last season it totalled an astronomical £2 billion. Mind you, there are few places where you can lose your shirt in such comfort. At Happy Valley you can fling down your chopsticks in the middle of a 10-course banquet and rush to the window to watch the nags flash past.

### ...and dogs

Punters have a new spring in their step after learning that Macao, Hong Kong's raffish neighbour, will remain a gambling haven into the next century. The Portuguese colony will return to China in 1999, two years after Hong Kong, but a senior Chinese official announced this week: "Gambling, dog racing and dancing can continue". Dog racing in Macao is a very special experience. The second race on Thursday's 14-race card was won by Rubber Nose.

### Military dash

The Hong Kong Sevens rugby tournament last weekend was made yet more memorable by an almost continual traffic of streakers. There were at least four; other counts put it much higher. The first and most memorable was planned with military precision and was marked by dazzling speed, which meant that the fellow got clean away. But he was recognized (presumably by his face). He is a Gurkha officer, who now faces the possibility of becoming an ex-Gurkha officer. I hope not: it was a streak of great verve and initiative.

### Aintree Tip

Hong Kong seems a long way from Aintree, where the Grand National will be run this afternoon, but this column is still plumping confidently for West Tip, who won so nicely for us last year. Yes, I know it's boring going for favourites, but my racing snout has a couple of likely outsiders as well. He recommends Smith's Man and Maori Venture.

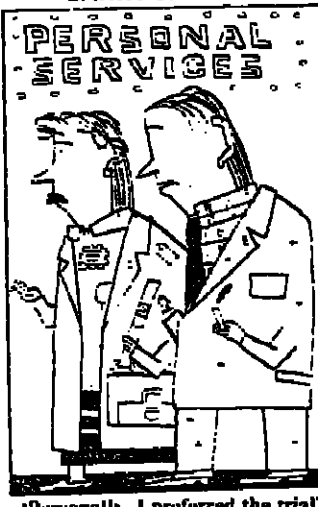
### Pegging out

Further down the steeplechase scale, I hear of misfortunes at point-to-point meetings during the gales last weekend. At Grafton Hunt's meeting, two tents were torn from their moorings and — worse still — two others were stolen. At the same meeting, a race commentary was interrupted with the demand: "Will Mr Russell please come to the secretary's tent?" Mr Russell came as quickly as he could. He was riding the second-placed horse at the time. At Weston and Banwell point-to-point, it was a betting tent that was blown away. Nothing daunted, the organizers moved the Tote to a cattle truck and passed the tickets out through the slats in the side.

### W.G. at home

The star item at the Second Innings exhibition now at the Burlington Gallery in London is *Portrait of a Cricketer* — which could even represent W.G. Grace himself. It is certainly a most phenomenally bearded fellow, painted by Ludovic, a Whistler-influenced painter born in Prague. More likely, though, it is one of W.G.'s almost equally imposing brothers, E.M. or G.F. Priced at £4,250, the portrait is one of about 250 items on show and for sale; they are packed in so tightly there is hardly room to make a fine cut. Meanwhile, a dramatization of W.G.'s private life is broadcast on Radio 4 tonight, with a repeat on Monday. His relationship with his mother and his wife is explored for the first time, demonstrating just how extraordinary a man this extraordinary cricketer was.

BARRY FANTONI



'Personally, I preferred the trial'

Tokyo The response by the Japanese prime minister, Yasuhiro Nakasone, to Mrs Thatcher's letter on the Cable and Wireless issue, offering little hope of an immediate breakthrough, clearly illustrates his relatively limited power, despite his positive image throughout the world. It also points up the fundamental differences between British and Japanese democracy and the respective roles of their civil servants.

The idea that the Japanese government works on western lines has been cultivated by Japan since the late 19th century, and so it appears to those outside: there is a prime minister who leads the most powerful political party and two houses of parliament which approve legislation. But the word "approve" is the operative one by the time legislation comes to the floor of the house the prospects for changing it are poor.

Though politicians have become more influential of late in formulating policy, the real policy-makers are in the bureaucracy, which is modelled on the autocratic Chinese mandarin. Nakasone is certainly unusually forceful for a Japanese leader but he is still ruled by bureaucracy and at the mercy of party factions. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party is a coalition of groups combined by mutual self-interest: the factions co-exist and interact like blobs of oil on the surface of a lake. Politically, Japan muddles through, conceding here, taking there, with the bureaucracy firmly guiding the ship of state in the background.

Though Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan have sought Nakasone's intervention in trade matters he can do little at present. His own faction within the party is weak, and his personal popularity has declined since he proposed a VAT-type tax. His immediate power base is comparable to Mrs Thatcher being described as leading the Grantham faction of the Conservative party.

With regard to Cable and Wireless, the decision to grant licences

David Watts explains the bureaucratic rivalries behind the row with Japan

## Free trade: why Nakasone's hands are tied

to operate a new international telecommunications service lies entirely with Shunjiro Karasawa, the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications (MPT), a member of Nakasone's own faction. Like most ministers its interests lie in extending its influence and protecting its own patch against bureaucrats in other ministries. Its officials are determined not to yield to them, let alone to foreigners. MPT's great rival for control of telecommunications — which Japan sees as the key industry of the future — is the elite Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), which musters probably the best brains and administrators in Japan, and which dismisses MPT as a third-rate business bureaucracy.

MITI has been strongly backed for years by the former prime minister, Kakuei Tanaka, who, until his cerebral haemorrhage in 1985, was in complete control of the most powerful faction in the party. There are, of course, many cross-alliances but the largest number of *zoku* or caucus members on telecommunications are to be found in the Tanaka faction.

MPT has considerable political influence, however. This stems largely from the Liberal Democratic Party's dependence on local postmasters employed by MPT to get out the rural vote at election time. The LDP, faced with the prospect of a voters' revolt over VAT in local elections later this month, has never needed that vote more than it does now.



Nakasone: a positive image but member of the wrong faction

Moreover, the intervention of a foreign firm in the field of telecommunications raises more personal issues for MPT: that of the retirement prospects of senior bureaucrats. Not only does the ministry's pension fund have heavy investments in Kokusai Denshin Denwa, which runs international telephone services, but on retirement an employee has a good chance of a plum job with one of the firms with which his ministry has been dealing. There are legal provisions discouraging this, but the practice is still widespread. Last year 28 former bureaucrats with MPT found positions in private industry — placing contracts, generally oiling the wheels and making sure that the supreme precept of Japanese life, that everything should go smoothly, is honoured. Bringing in a foreign director would not

only upset this cosy arrangement but probably jeopardize the retirement plans of one of the very bureaucrats now called upon to rule on the Cable and Wireless application.

In the centre of the trade debate are two consortia, representing a mixture of the old Japanese conglomerates associated with Japan's post-war industrial success and the younger companies that have built the country's recent reputation in cars and electronics.

Into this maelstrom of differing bureaucratic and commercial interests have come the intervention of foreign governments, letters from Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan and demands from the US Congress. These interventions have brought other ministries into play: the Foreign Ministry, warning of the potential damage to relations with the US and Britain; the Defence Ministry, noting US interest in using the proposed trans-Pacific cable for the transmission of data for the Strategic Defence Initiative.

Even the concept of law on which most of the foreign interlocutors base their intervention does not bear the same interpretation as it does in the West. Legal drafting in Japan is generally broad and vague; immense powers of interpretation remain with the bureaucrat. The 17th century Shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu's legacy probably still provides one of the best insights into the application of law in Japanese society today: "The law may upset reason, but reason may never upset the law... The law may be used to confound reason, but reason must certainly not be used to overthrow the law."

The argument, then, is much more complex than merely whether or not a certain British company is going to get a telecommunications licence. One negotiator has likened US attempts to intervene in Japan's telecoms wars to a tiered snatching at the heels of two ministerial giants. At present the best that foreigners can do is to try and ally themselves with the right power group. The mere merits of a case are far from sufficient.

Mikhail Bruk gives a Soviet assessment of the Prime Minister's tour

## Thatcher's finest hour?

Moscow

In a live interview with the BBC during Mrs Thatcher's visit to Moscow I made a slip of the tongue and referred to her as "head of state". I was made aware of it only when I read a transcript of the interview teleaxed by a friend from London. I think I might be forgiven for the error, made during a moment of nervousness, because everybody who saw her on television or at social functions remarked on her regal behaviour.

The Soviet people were looking forward to Mrs Thatcher's visit, not only because she is head of the British government and a prominent figure on the international stage but because Britain has a special place in the minds of the Soviet people of my generation — I was 11 when Germany attacked the Soviet Union in June 1941.

Britain was our ally in the war against fascism, which perhaps explains why the Soviet media reacted so sharply to Mrs Thatcher's statement at a Conservative Party meeting in Torquay a week before she left for Moscow that she would talk to the Soviet leaders not from a position based on illusion and surrender, but on realism and strength.

A day or two after that speech an academic friend of mine said: "Listening to her one might think that we are at war, and that she is losing it, but nevertheless dictates to us conditions for her surrender." I replied that I did not read that meaning into her words, yet I could not get rid of an impression that she intended to lay down a hard line. I'm aware that the epithet "the Iron Lady" originated in Russia and it immediately came to mind.

Long before the visit, the western media wanted it known that Mrs Thatcher would be going to Moscow as the ambassador of western Europe and the US, and not just of the present British government. In terms of diplomatic skills, she was a very good choice, as millions agreed. But when it came to discussions on the arms question, I doubt that the Soviet Union saw her as the

representative of Nato. In that respect, it was strictly a working visit by a British prime minister.

Mr and Mrs Gorbachev were particularly warm in their welcome since they were returning the hospitality which they enjoyed in London in late 1984, not long after Mr Gorbachev took office. I have the impression that the Gorbachevs and Mrs Thatcher liked each other, an important factor that should not be overlooked.

Humour undoubtedly had its place during the visit. At Zagorsk, the seat of the Russian Orthodox Church, where Mrs Thatcher attended a service the day after she arrived, somebody in the crowd suggested she had obviously



thought it necessary to pray before meeting Mr Gorbachev.

The media in Britain and the Soviet Union has meanwhile been analysing the visit. A wide range of problems was discussed and the position of both sides made clear on the questions of war and peace, including humanitarian ones.

It is not my purpose in writing this article for *The Times* to go into details on specific issues of arms control and disarmament. To me as a journalist the spirit of negotiation is more important. For we can argue for ever about who has more submarines, tanks, or warheads.

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atomic weapons are evil and that it is immoral and deadly to use them, or threaten to use them, as a guardian of peace. That is why the Soviet Union has started an anti-nuclear crusade.

After she returned to Britain Mrs Thatcher spoke of Mr Gorbachev's tremendous courage in carrying out *perestroika* — the restructuring of Soviet society in the economic as well as social fields. True enough it takes great courage and energy and wisdom to do that. But it takes still greater courage to tell the world: "Let us disarm and trust each other."

Mrs Thatcher takes a different stand: peace through nuclear deterrence. It is the exact opposite to our concept of survival. It is often said in the West: "We cannot trust the Russians". Again, it takes courage on the part of Mr Gorbachev and our party to tell the world: "Trust us and together we shall save our planet."

Many will find it much easier to hide behind the nuclear fence, but while it remains it will, one day, inevitably fall and bury us all. We prefer trust and honesty, rejecting the concept of international relations and national security based on nuclear deterrence.

It was indeed important for Britain and the Soviet Union to discuss problems of bilateral relations, discussions which also have a significant role to play in the conduct of international affairs.

Mrs Thatcher was liked here, even admired, for her elegance and poise. I believe that she will be the first western leader to reassess the realities of the nuclear world in which we all live so that Britain and all of us could live for a thousand years and more and the people could say: That was her finest hour.

When Winston Churchill spoke of Britain's finest hour, we were bracing ourselves before going together into the battle against Hitler. Let us now brace ourselves to demonstrate mutual goodwill and so preserve peace on earth.

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Paul Johnson

## Take the past to the people

In earlier times history was called "the school of princes". There was general agreement among the educated that study of the past was a necessary preparation for statecraft. Equally, in a democratic age, history ought to be the school of peoples. Yet there is overwhelming evidence that the teaching of history, throughout our educational system, is in decline, and that knowledge of it, among our governing mass electorate, dwindles inexorably.

Last October the *Times Literary Supplement* published a distressing lament from David Cannadine on British history studies in the universities. In the virtually no history children learn virtually no history at all. Even if they specialize, their knowledge, notably of the more distant past, is liable to be fragmentary. A reader described to me recently an A-level history student who knew nothing about our greatest king, Edward I, or our greatest republican, Oliver Cromwell. Television, which discourages children from reading books, does nothing for history. Or rather, worse than nothing, since it increasingly transmits travesties of the past, such as *The Monocled Mutineer*.

The problem is not confined to Britain. The French government is now taking urgent steps to improve the teaching of history in state schools. Kenneth Baker, who is coming to the rescue of English language teaching, is determined to do something for history too. But government action will not be enough. What is also needed is a change in attitude, especially among academics, to the teaching and, above all, the writing of history. David Cannadine puts it thus: "We professional historians are... in business to sell a product, and if we are to survive, our product must compete successfully in the market place of consumer demand". That is true, but what is also necessary is that academic historians should cease to behave like a craft union, with a post-entry closed shop and restrictive practices.

I speak with feeling because, as a writer of general histories who is also a working journalist, I am accustomed to academic trade unionism. An instance occurred last week in *The Times*, when my new book surveying 4,000 years of Jewish history was awarded, by an academic reviewer, a condescending "Beta-plus" under the headline "Journo's Jewry".

There are too many academics who behave as if they own history and treat its non-academic practitioners as amateur intruders. Yet the odd thing about the academic control of historical studies is that it is comparatively recent. Until the second half of the 19th century history was written chiefly by those who shaped affairs or were close to them. Of the three greatest British historians, Gibbon, Macaulay and Carlyle, two served in Parliament, two practised journalism, and all three were primarily men of letters. Such writers treated history not merely as a burgeoning science but as literature, bringing to their work consummate powers of organizing material and presenting it with vivid force. They were read by the highest in the land, and by the educated masses too.

What is essential is that historians of all kinds should accept their responsibility to the public by helping to re-plant the writing of history on to the general tree of literature and by making the past real and important in the consciousness of ordinary people. History is the great lamp of humanity; it should be held high and boldly and cast its beams so that all of us, however humble, can see our way forward.

\*A History of the Jews (Weidenfeld, £16.95).

Joseph Connolly

## My movie fit of the shakes

Hampstead Village is one of Britain's unofficial film sets. Most weeks one has to battle one's way through banks of lights and cameras and blunder over writhing cables: film crews do not so much arrive as occupy. Real actors, of course, never take part. Not long ago I was sitting in a coffee bar opposite John Hurt while every-one craned their necks to catch a glimpse of some 10-year-old on the pavement being filmed for Michael Aspel's *Six O'Clock Show*. Heath Street, meanwhile, was almost blocked by a BBC catering van, around which were gathered two or three Jane Austen lookalikes and a man resembling the Johnnie Walker advert, sipping Horlicks.

Flask Walk was worst of all: I spotted two residents having extreme difficulty getting to their front doors because of five young ladies who were being instructed to huddle down the walk repeatedly, take after take, to emphasize their extreme youth, their love of life and, in particular, the extreme brevity of their costume. At first they were blue with cold, but after the first seven gallops they were only four by this time, one of them having retired early after careering into a bollard. It was then that I myself was offered the chance to appear in a film.

Well, not a film as such: more an advert, really. It was for Yellow Pages. The ideas man excitedly outlined the concept: "We're looking for several scruffy old bookshops around London, and yours seems ideal," he enthused. I thanked him effusively. The plan was to have an old man tramping from shop to shop in search of an elusive tome, each bookseller in turn being required to shake his head. Then they cut to the chap locating the book by telephone via the Yellow Pages, and it transpires that he himself is the author. egocentric old idiot.

"So what we shall require you to do, my darling," went on the creative director, "is shake your head. Do you think you could manage that?" I looked at him very seriously and told him that I would certainly try.

"That's the spirit, love," he whooped. "If you don't try, you'll never know. You don't have to be an Olivier, dear. You're not nervous, are you?" I assured him that I felt comfortably this side of a breakdown, and he clasped his hands in a way that suggested we were going to have a lovely day, and that there would be cakes and jellies for tea. Filming was to be one week hence, 6 am; shouldn't take more than three hours; £300 fee.

"Three hours just to shake my head?" I queried.

The ideas man simpered at the creative director. Clearly I was displaying my unprofessionalism like a flag. "No, my duck," glibed one of them. "Three hundred just to shake your head."

One week later, at 6 am. Still dark, except for Flask Walk, which was ablaze with lights. But these, it turned out, were for a *Vogue* photo session; that was clear from all the angular, expensively gowned women hanging around, looking sadistic. It was gone seven when the ideas man arrived, alone.

"So sorry, ducks, but we can't use your shop after all."

"What's wrong with it?" I demanded. "Don't take it personally — it's not the shop, it's you. Quite wrong, we decided. We feel you don't look nearly enough like a real bookseller. The concept we now have is sixty-fiveish, white hair, pince-nez, all that. Sorry, dear." And he frisked away.

I turned back into my ideally scruffy old bookshop, cursing my youth and beauty: a star career in tatters before it had even begun. I went to a mirror, stared into it and shook my head. Just to prove I could do it.





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## WHAT JAPAN MUST DO NOW

Mr Michael Howard, the Corporate and Consumer Affairs Minister, is due to fly to Tokyo today on a mission of great sensitivity. It is a quite different mission from the one he planned last autumn.

The original specific purpose was to negotiate co-operation between British and Japanese financial regulators, extending arrangements with the United States to cope with the strains of the new global banking and financial trading system. In place of this positive priority, the Minister now finds himself acting as a guided missile in the trade war of words set off by Japanese resistance to the ambitions of Cable & Wireless to play a leading role in its second international telephone network.

Mr Howard's onerous duty is to make sure that the war does not go beyond words and to make sufficient positive progress over access to Japanese financial markets to help defuse the protectionist clamour at home. This will not be easy. The warhead Mr Howard carries is a distinctly inappropriate one.

The Financial Services Act gives the authorities power to refuse or revoke trading licences to financial groups from countries that do not offer British firms equivalent freedom to trade. This has little relevance to the Cable & Wireless issue or to Britain's £3.7 billion trade deficit with Japan, the ultimate source of the clamour.

As we argued when the legislation was first published, these clauses should never have been in the Act. Since Britain now has the most liberal financial services regime of any leading country, they allow British ministers to discriminate capriciously against individual financial institutions from the United States, nearly all developing countries and virtually all our partners in the European Community.

The aim of helping to ensure reciprocity in other countries is worthwhile and in the interests of more open markets worldwide. But the means run counter to the Act's secondary purpose of helping London compete with rival financial centres by being open, non-discriminatory and a clean and fair place to trade. Using the powers as a weapon in scarcely related disputes would only help rival financial centres in Europe that are eager to snatch London's prime role in international securities markets.

The clauses were always directed against Japan, which enforces segregation of financial businesses in the same way as the United States and has started breaking down rigid regulation of financial markets only in the past five years. They were thought up when British banks and securities companies were having great difficulty overcoming bureaucratic resistance to their trading freely in Japan. They reflect the view that Japan responds only to sabre rattling.

It is in no way to Japan's credit that this thinking has developed. Progress has, however, already been made in more subtle ways. British and American banks and securities dealers have been given progressively more and better licenses. Just before the Bill was published in 1985, six foreign firms (one wholly British) were finally allowed onto the Tokyo stock exchange.

Mr Howard will want assurances that efforts will be made to admit more qualifying British firms this year to the Tokyo exchange — still much the worst bottleneck. It would be helpful if he also came back with a compromise offer of a 10 per cent stake for Cable & Wireless in the successful telecommunications consortium.

It is idle to suppose, however, that greater access in financial services, let alone the costly telephone project, will make any positive short-term impact on Japan's bilateral trade surplus with Britain. That is principally due to the lack of competitiveness of many British products and to halfhearted marketing rather than formal or bureaucratic protection. Given the surplus, however, and the tensions which it brings, it remains inexcusable that Japan has sought to maintain even drastically reduced discrimination against whisky. The onus is thus on Japan, here too, to make a contribution to easing the looming threat to peaceful trade.

## Danger of trade war with Japan

From Lord Thorneycroft, CH

Sir, With reference to your leader of March 28, may I, too, express the hope that we can cool it. I am old enough to have been in on the negotiations for the original Agreement on Tariffs and Trade while serving as President of the Board of Trade, and to have spent much time in later years on industry-to-industry talks with the Japanese on behalf of the British Radio and Electronic Manufacturers' Association.

Plainly the Japanese are missing a great opportunity by effectively squeezing out Cable & Wireless from the possibility of leading a telecommunications network in Japan. What a compliment incidentally to our technological and managerial skills that these particular Japanese officials are running scared of us.

The Japanese action is clearly mistaken and unfortunate even in a field where competition is extremely rare. To start a trade war about it would surely be more than unfortunate; it could be disastrous. Particularly so, perhaps, in the field of financial services in which for years we have sought to obtain treatment similar to that applied to manufacturers under the GATT. We, who export more *per capita* than Japan, need the system of wider trade and payments. It is not an irritating imposition from outside but central to our position as a trading nation.

I understand the political pressures now operating, but I trust that some, and importantly some within the Department of Trade and Industry, will speak up for the rules and practices essential to the visible and invisible trade of the United Kingdom. Yours faithfully, THORNEYCROFT, House of Lords, March 30.

## Urban sprawl in middle England

From Sir Colin Buchanan

Sir, The only certain result of encouraging housing, commerce and industry in rural areas, whether under Professor Newby's strategic planning or not (feature, March 24), is that the countryside will become pockmarked with scruffy development — housing estates out of scale and character with the villages they are tacked on to, farm buildings converted into scrap and junkyards, backyard workshops largely connected with the motor trade (each new house will produce two more cars), a lot of semi-detached parcels of land, office blocks and factories out in the blue, more power lines.

Worst of all — and I have yet to meet the politician who understands the point — this sprawl will produce movement patterns of great complexity resulting (since the motor vehicle is the only possible method of transport in the circumstances) in traffic congestion for miles.

Even with planning controls this is happening right now, so much so that in much of lowland England, if you want to appreciate a landscape, you must half-close your eyes to obscure the detail. Open your eyes wide and the scruffiness and traffic are dreadful to behold. Much of the area round Oxford illustrates the point. The Government may say, "Ahh! But Mark II sprawls will be different — everything will be beautifully designed, sensitive, and carefully landscaped." How could this be done without the imposition of controls even more rigorous than those the Government seems anxious to abandon?

The prognostications seem to be that sufficient agricultural production and scruffy sprawl could co-exist. But what about the environment? The environmentalists in this context are more than a few academics. In one group there are a great many people with professional interests — historians (like my predecessor, Sir Arthur Bryant, who loved the Vale of Aylesbury), architects, biologists, entomologists, painters (like Rex Whistler, who painted that fine picture of the Chiltern escarpment seen from the Vale), ornithologists, poets and many others who look to the countryside for their source material. In the second group are literally millions of people whose main enjoyment of the countryside comes from just looking at it. Scruffy sprawl and traffic will not serve the interests of either group.

The Vale of Aylesbury provides a good example of the dangers ahead. It has no special protective status, such as being a designated area of outstanding natural beauty, but it is "midmost unmitigated England" at its best. Would it not be a great national loss if it were assailed by creeping scruff, and those marvellous views across it from the vantage points on the Chilterns went the way of that once famous prospect, from Birdlip over the Vale of Severn which now, in the middle distance, is but a great urban sprawl? Yours truly, COLIN BUCHANAN (President, Friends of the Vale of Aylesbury), Appletree House, Boars Hill, Oxford, March 29.

## A tax on print

From Sir Robert Lusty

Sir, It is distressing at any time, but particularly with the babel of the world at its most raucous, that publishers and authors of the highest repute should appear in embittered conflict (letter, March 28; Diary, March 30). It has come about, I would venture to suggest, through the virtual disappearance of the "publisher" as he used to operate and the emergence, in undisciplined profusion, of "editors" with "their" authors and the undue influence of accountants, auditors and money men under whose rules few publishers of the past would have dared to embark upon an always risky speculation.

Authors (who come first) and publishers (who come second) have one purpose in common,

which is to sell their wares and somehow to increase the size of the public requiring them. Knowledge and information and entertainment are what they offer and even during the harshest period of the last war such was regarded as sacrosanct and not to be subject to any kind of VAT or surcharge.

The threat of such seems now again to be upon us. This, therefore, is no time for discordance. Those involved, not for their own sakes, but for a fundamental right of a civilised society, should unite to ensure once again that the freedom of the printed word should be immune from assault. Yours faithfully, ROBERT LUSTY, Broad Close, Blockley, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, March 31.

## Archbishop's views

From Dr Raymond Bayliss

Sir, I would like to thank *The Times* for publishing (March 30) the interview with Dr Robert Runcie. The good Archbishop offered valuable insights into the condition of our society. But, unfortunately, he skipped over the most fundamental cause for the decline in moral standards, that is, the failure of Christians to receive moral energy from God and give it to the world.

Although there are saints in the parish, they are few. All clergy and Christian laymen are called to be saints; to set a moral example and to bring the Kingdom of God to earth through prayer and evangelism.

Reveries are born in the womb of prayer; selfless prayer can achieve concrete, physical results and is, therefore, the most pragmatic and rational way to solve problems.

In prayer that truth that we have lost becomes clear and those difficult moral questions are answered. Through prayer that moral energy we lack is given. It really is that simple.

Sincerely, RAYMOND BAYLISS, 33 Glyn Llan, Blackmill, Mid Glamorgan, March 30.

## Cost of a bonus

From Mr P. J. M. Hill

Sir, The recent debate as to whether the 2 per cent reduction in income tax in the Budget is desirable leads me to write to you as the real incidence of taxation is so much greater.

I am managing director of a small company manufacturing knitted men's wear and last Christmas I gave an employee a bonus of £100. He received net £62 after tax of 29 per cent and National Insurance of 9 per cent had been deducted. It cost my company £110.45, including NI of 10.45 per cent. The total tax taken was therefore 48.45 per cent.

I do not feel this is generally realised and the reduction of 2 per cent in income tax must therefore be very desirable. Those who advocate increased spending as an alternative strategy do not perhaps realise how heavy taxation really is.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully, P. J. M. HILL, Managing Director, Sunspel Menswear Ltd, Cavendish House, Canal Street, Long Eaton, Nottingham, March 27.

## Crocodile's victim

From Miss Dinah Bisdee

Sir, Your report today (March 31) on the death of the young American woman who fell victim to a crocodile in Australia described her as "attractive". Evidently she was attractive to the crocodile, but that was not the point. Would her death have been less tragic had she been plain?

Yours faithfully, DINAH BISDEE, 40 Hazledene Road, Chiswick, W4, March 31.

## Ferry disaster

From Dr T. D. Hobbs

Sir, As you have pointed out in (leading article, March 9) we must all feel a great debt of gratitude to those many people involved in the rescue effort at Zeebrugge. Let it not be forgotten, though, that the main task force was civilian not military, co-ordinated by the civilian authorities at Zeebrugge.

Major-General Mann's objective of a task force (March 25) is a laudable one, but the way to achieve it should surely rely on civilians, not soldiers. If even a fraction of the vast sums currently invested in arming the military services could be invested in organising and training unarmed task forces, the objective could surely be achieved.

Indeed, it might be argued that, by diverting such investment away from the military hardware of destruction towards civilian and humanitarian relief projects of this kind, we would actually be replacing a potential source of man-made carnage with an effective response to both natural and man-made disasters, thereby making the world a doubly safer place.

Yours faithfully, TIMOTHY HOBBS, Trinity College, Cambridge, March 30.

## Out on bail

From Professor G. J. Zellick

Sir, Dr Hurst's letter (March 27) is misleading, since it implies that a court granting bail to a person charged with murder will, or should, have obtained medical reports. What section 36(A) of the Bail Act actually provides, however, is that where a person accused of murder is granted bail, a condition must be imposed requiring the accused to undergo medical examination.

This is to ensure that medical reports are available for the trial, particularly in relation to a possible defence of diminished responsibility. It does not help with the bail decision itself. Yours faithfully, GRAHAM ZELICK, Dean, Faculty of Laws, Queen Mary College, Mile End Road, E1, March 30.

## Human rights

From Dr G. A. R. Gili

Sir, It is enlightening to hear (report, March 31) that in discussing human rights with Mrs Thatcher, Mr Gorbachov raises as counter-points housing and unemployment. There is, however, a freedom in the right to be either housed or unemployed.

The United Kingdom has no conscription; we may be pardoned for thinking that the Soviet Union puts all its unemployed into the Armed Forces. And do the unhoused in Britain outnumber those in "camps" in the Soviet Union?

Human rights suffer too many interpretations around the world. *A priori*, there must be agreement that anywhere the individual must have the right to say, "I do not like the way my Government interprets human rights and I shall set about changing the Government democratically."

Or, "The number of square feet I am allotted in Government housing is inhuman. I shall mount my campaign among the gypsies until I can find better accommodation." Yours faithfully, G. A. R. GILI, Es Figurelet, Mancor del Valle, Mallorca, March 31.

## ON THIS DAY

APRIL 4 1877

Executions had been removed from the public gaze in 1868 to within prison walls. Johnson's death, described below, differed from most of those reported in *The Times* not only in its bungling but because of the rare protest to which it led.

## SCENE AT AN EXECUTION.

Yesterday morning John Henry Johnson, aged 37, a fent dealer, suffered the extreme penalty of the law in the borough gaol of Leeds at Arnsley. At the Leeds Assizes recently he was convicted before Mr. Justice Lopes of the murder of Amos Waite, at Bradford, on the 26th December last. The hour fixed for the execution was 8 a.m. and punctually at that hour Mr. A. O. Keene, the governor, delivered the culprit to the hands of the executioner, a man named Askern, who has had some experience and who has always officiated as hangman at the gaol of Leeds. The High Sheriff of Yorkshire (Lord Polington) was present, together with Mr. W. Gray, the Under-Sheriff, and, besides the officials, the only other persons in attendance were six reporters and the prison surgeons. Immediately the scaffold was reached Johnson was placed beneath the noose. The rope itself had the appearance of an old one, and that was a fact specially commented upon by one of the representatives of the Press before the malefactor was brought forth. It struck them also that the rope was an unusually short one, and it seemed as if it was not intended to allow a greater drop for the sufferer's body than 4ft. Before the cap was drawn over his eyes, Johnson said to the chaplain (the Rev. Osmond Cookson), "Tell my mother I die happy." The chaplain seized his hand and retained his grasp until Askern had signalled that all was ready. Seizing a lever, Askern pushed it from him, the boards gave way, and it was supposed that the victim had fulfilled the law's demands, but not so yet; for the rope had snapped asunder, and the doomed man had fallen prone to the ground. It is impossible to describe the consternation that prevailed among the small group of spectators. The chaplain seemed to have the greatest presence of mind, and he called aloud, "Let us all pray for him," at the same time himself penetrating within the framework of the gallows, which was encased in black drapery. Johnson was heard groaning, and the governor directed a chair to be brought. While the chaplain was praying that faith and fortitude might be granted to the poor wretch during this horrible interval, search was made for another and a surer rope. After a lapse of about 10 minutes a new and thicker rope was fastened to the cross beam, and Johnson was led from beneath the drop. With wonderful firmness he re-ascended the 14 steps to the scaffold. The white cap yet obscured his face, but it did not prevent his voice being audible in prayer. The fresh noose was soon adjusted about his neck, and the fatal bolt again withdrawn. All stood uncovered for five fearful minutes longer and then the convulsive movements which had been so long discernible totally ceased. Johnson died admitting the justice of his sentence, and after having, on Sunday, written a letter to the wife of the man murdered, in which he said, "You know that I would not have done such an awful deed if I had been in sober senses at the time; and if the prayers of the living availeth at all for the parted may poor Amos's soul rest in Heaven, where I hope to meet him. May God bless you and his poor mother and comfort you, is the sincere wish and prayer of me, John Henry Johnson." "You know that I would not have done such an awful deed if I had been in sober senses at the time; and if the prayers of the living availeth at all for the parted may poor Amos's soul rest in Heaven, where I hope to meet him. May God bless you and his poor mother and comfort you, is the sincere wish and prayer of me, John Henry Johnson." "You know that I would not have done such an awful deed if I had been in sober senses at the time; and if the prayers of the living availeth at all for the parted may poor Amos's soul rest in Heaven, where I hope to meet him. May God bless you and his poor mother and comfort you, is the sincere wish and prayer of me, John Henry Johnson."

Beyond the walls of the gaol about 200 persons had assembled in order, as it appeared, that they might see the black flag hoisted as signal of the execution. There was a considerable delay before the signal was given, but, of course, they had no idea of the horrible scene enacted within the walls.

## TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, — A disgusting story is in the evening paper of today. A man was hanged this morning at Leeds in course of law, but before he was executed the following outrages were perpetrated. He was pinioned, taken out in the cold early morning, prayed over by the chaplain, and then put through a rehearsal of the approaching ceremony with a bad rope. This, of course, broke, and the wretched man fell to the ground. He was taken up, a strong rope was sent for, and he was then duly executed, his struggles lasting five or six minutes.

I remember reading of a perfectly similar case within the last few years. Nothing was done in that matter. Our law forbids torture. Will it be enforced in this case on the Sheriff and on "Mr. Askern, of York?" Will any MP call the attention of Parliament to it, or is a man who is capably convicted deemed less worthy of protection than a dog or a rabbit under the Vivisection Act?

Your obedient servant, F. T. LAWRENCE, Saville Club, April 3.

From Mr William Douglas-Home Sir, One reads a lot of complaints from Mr Healey about being mistaken for the British Ambassador in Washington, but none from the Ambassador about Mr Healey being mistaken for him.

Is this, perhaps, what diplomacy is all about?

I am, Sir, yours, WILLIAM DOUGLAS-HOME, Derry House, Kilmeston, Hampshire, April 1.

Matter of fact?

From Mr William Douglas-Home Sir, One reads a lot of complaints from Mr Healey about being mistaken for the British Ambassador in Washington, but none from the Ambassador about Mr Healey being mistaken for him.

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## CUT BOXING AT ITS ROOTS

Last year Steve Watt, aged 29 and the Scottish welterweight champion, died after collapsing in the tenth round of a professional fight. Once more there began the debate about whether boxing should be made illegal. Once more the defence of individual liberty prevailed; boxers should be free to risk death and brain damage if they so wished.

Serious doubts were expressed, however, about how the question of individual liberty applied to children. Although society has ample justification for prohibiting their participation in the sport, the bigger cities still have boxing clubs where the sport is taught to boys as young as ten.

Last Tuesday, Joe Sticklen, aged 15, died after collapsing in the first round of only his second boxing match. An exceptional case, it will be claimed by the sport's supporters. For him to collapse after a boxing career lasting barely ten minutes showed that the boy, in a way that could not possibly have been known in advance, was not up to it.

It was exceptional, certainly. The boy died. Or rather, he was killed. Under current rules, however, schoolboy boxers can live, and still have had things happen to them.

The worst of these is brain

damage. The way to stop that is compulsory protective headgear. This is a precaution so obvious that the failure voluntarily to introduce it raises doubts about the real priorities of some of the adults who organise these children's fights.

Do they perhaps fear that headgear might diminish the chances of knock downs and knock outs, and therefore lessen the excitement — the same fears which manifestly prevent the introduction of headgear into the professional ring? By their own own admission, amateur boxing is a way of channelling the violence of the young. Perhaps organising amateur boxing is a way of channelling the violence of the old, but at no risk to themselves.

The case against making schoolboy boxing, as opposed to professional boxing, illegal cannot be argued on grounds of the individual's right to choose to fight or not. All civilizations, however free, have restricted individual rights in children. By most commonly accepted tests of what is good for children (such as avoidance of early death or brain damage, avoidance of glory into an occupation in which they are more likely to

find misery and injury) schoolboy boxing should be made illegal.

But what of professional boxing? Libertarians say that people should be free to hit one another by agreement, as if Britain became less free when bare-knuckle fights were made illegal. But boxing's defenders have not solely used the libertarian argument. They have talked of "character building", and how good it is that boys be taught to "defend themselves".

Middle class boxing fans such as George Bernard Shaw romanticised the ring as a place of honest, sturdy combat, although Shaw took care to work off his aggression against society in the safer arena of the West End stage. Such romanticising ignores the reality: the grasping managers, the deliberate matching of strong fighters against weaker; the crowd's hypocritical cries of "stop it, ref", when most of them would not turn up if the fighters had to wear headguards.

Banning schoolboy boxing would begin the process which would cause adult boxing to wither and die. The libertarians would have no young men to champion. They have far better causes.

## FOURTH LEADER

They don't do things by halves in America, and that's a fact. A Mr Gagliardi has spent the last few months issuing writs — a total of well over 400 of them, comprising seven distinct charges against more than 60 people. The grounds of his complaint are somewhat obscure; it seems that he is under the ineradicable impression that the State of Pennsylvania has been conspiring with the United States Government on the one hand, and the local telephone company on the other, to put up the latter's charges.

Eventually, Mr Gagliardi's luck ran out; he came up against Judge Donald Ziegler, who declared him to be the equivalent of what we call a contumacious litigant, and barred him from all such actions in the future.

That, you might think, would be the end of the matter. Mr Gagliardi, however, was not to be deterred; he promptly served a writ on the judge, and for good measure one on the Clerk of the Court, claiming that they had conspired to deny him his right to sue anybody he chose, a right guaranteed (according to him) by the United States Constitution.

Where will it end? The judge will no doubt now appeal to a higher court, which will declare Mr Gagliardi's latest writs null and void; he will thereupon sue the appeal court for conspiracy with Judge Ziegler. They will take it to a higher court still, whereupon...

Eventually, the Supreme Court will rule him out of order, no doubt thinking that that must be the end of the matter; something suggests that the Supreme Court will shortly afterwards discover Mr Gagliardi knocking on the door of the International Court at The Hague.

Most people must sometimes wish that they were

lawyers. There is reason to believe that the shares of American companies which manufacture cream buns leaped in price when the latest news of Mr Gagliardi began to get about; lawyers, you see, are very fond of cream buns, and the prospect of them being in a position to indulge their taste for years to come, on the proceeds of Gagliardi v Al-most Everybody, has clearly done wonders for the bunnymakers' order-books.

The assumption, as you will have realised, is that there is no substance in Mr Gagliardi's original claim. But a thought occurs; suppose his allegations are true? After all, the average phone-bill around these parts suggests very strongly that somebody must have been conspiring. Nobody supposes that the people who get the bills here are all crazy; why should we suppose that Ma Bell's customers are? Hang in there, Gagliardi.

dece shows that this is not the right solution.

The mid-cabin emergency hatches, which are auxiliary to the doors through which the majority of passengers would be expected to escape, are small and only one person at a time can use them. Tests show that creating a wide gateway in front of them does not increase the flow of passengers through the exit and with too many people trying to get through the small opening at the same time, there is manifestly an increased risk of jamming.

What the CAA has required is for the seat next to the hatch to be removed or for the gap between

the adjacent seat rows to be widened. These options greatly facilitate opening the exit and provide better access to it whilst minimising the danger of congestion.

By all means let us listen to experts from other professions, but where they have done no tests and present no technical evidence, we should not rush to judgement.

Yours faithfully, J. C. CHAPLIN, Group Director, Safety Services, Civil Aviation Authority, CAA House, 45-59 Kingsway, WC2, March 30.

## Aircraft fires

From Mr J. C. Chaplin

Sir, When "Experts say CAA fire rule puts air passengers at risk" (headline, March 28) we should not overlook the expertise within the Civil Aviation Authority itself.

The Chief Fire Officer for Greater Manchester, who has called for the removal of a whole row of seats next to the mid-cabin emergency hatch in the B737, has produced no technical evidence to justify his claim and indeed has admitted that his experience of aircraft fires is limited. The CAA, on the other hand, has the evidence of tests, and this evi-











# US nuclear net is essential, says Healey

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Denis Healey spoke last night of the strong belief in Britain in the need for the American nuclear umbrella to deter a Soviet nuclear attack on Western Europe.

In a pamphlet published in New York the Shadow foreign secretary said that the Labour Party recognized that the overwhelming majority of Europeans regarded the umbrella as essential for deterring a Soviet attack or at least for removing the threat of nuclear blackmail.

Mr Healey said that although Labour believed it was no longer wise or credible to rely on the threat of nuclear retaliation against a conventional attack, it recognized that the US would maintain a powerful strategic nuclear force to deter nuclear attack by the Soviet Union.

The viability of the umbrella as a deterrent is one of the few remaining areas of difference between Mr Healey and Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader.

Although he has since modified his position, Mr Kinnock said in interviews last September that he had told President Reagan that he would not wish in any circumstances for the US to use nuclear weapons for Britain's protection.

He said last November that it had always been the "sensible appraisal" that the Americans would not risk their own necks in a nuclear exchange limited to Europe.

But Mr Healey has taken a different view, and said last night: "Belief in the need for the American nuclear umbrella remains as strong in Britain as on the Continent."

But he said that Labour did not believe the US needed to keep nuclear weapons in known and vulnerable British bases for the purpose.

In a detailed exposition of Labour's present position on defence, Mr Healey again made clear that there would be

no time-limit on the discussions about the withdrawal of American nuclear weapons from Britain, though he said Labour would expect to conclude them "well within our first term".

Throughout Mr Healey, who accompanied Mr Kinnock on his visit to the White House last week, made clear his party's commitment to NATO and emphasized that it would consult on the changes it was proposing.

Making clear that Labour's objective in NATO would be to persuade the allies to build an effective conventional deterrent in Europe, moving it away from its current strategy of flexible response involving the possible use of nuclear weapons in response to a conventional attack, Mr Healey added: "Yet we recognize that we cannot change NATO strategy unilaterally and that NATO strategy must be indivisible. So we shall continue to co-operate in the existing strategy until we succeed in changing it."

Mr Healey described as theatrical the warnings that requiring the withdrawal of American nuclear weapons would mean the end of NATO. He said: "No Labour government would allow itself to risk the disintegration of the alliance."

In seeking the withdrawal of American nuclear weapons Labour would not act unilaterally as did Charles de Gaulle when he expelled the NATO forces from France in 1966.

He said: "In our discussions with our allies we shall weigh all the considerations they put to us with a full sense of the responsibility we know we carry for the unity and strength of the organization which is the foundation of our security."

But he said that Britain under Labour would not renounce its right to take its own decision in the light of facts and arguments.

## Tory in shares probe faces his constituency

Continued from page 1

ing is to support him. Certainly there is no question of Mr Best offering his resignation or of it being asked for", she said.

At the election in 1983, Mr Best's majority dropped to around 1,600 and much of the disquiet voiced among Conservative workers yesterday centred on long serving Tory women party supporters who have tolled for many years to achieve his initial victory.

One Tory businesswoman who herself bought £250-worth of BT shares said: "Many of my friends used their savings to buy shares and we all knew how many we were permitted to buy. We all played by the rules and you expect everyone else to do the same, especially your MP."

The meeting today will be chaired by Mr Goronwy Parry, a local teacher and the chairman of the Anglesey Conservative Association.

Yesterday all he would say publicly was: "We want to hear his version of events. This has been a personal blow to the association on the island and we want to hear his explanation."

Whatever the feeling of the meeting today, it is unlikely they will initiate any action against the MP while the investigation by the DPP is under way. To do so, said officials yesterday, would be to prejudice the case. But it was clear yesterday that much of the goodwill that Mr Best has built up has been seriously compromised by his actions.

# Musicians with an eye on the maestro



Sir Yehudi Menuhin at the Festival Hall, London, yesterday, with 30 of the world's most gifted violinists. They are among 45 musicians aged under 20 who are scheduled to play in the Orion Insurance Yehudi Menuhin International Violin Competition starting today in Folkestone (Photograph: Graham Wood).

## Car imports rising as EEC tackles Japanese trade

Japanese car exports to the EEC are continuing to rise sharply despite assurances of moderation and are bound to provoke a stern reaction from the EEC's foreign ministers who meet this weekend to discuss the trade imbalance with Japan.

Japanese vehicle shipment figures reveal that car exports to the EEC jumped 21 per cent in February to 125,000, following a 46 per cent increase in January.

In the first two months of 1987, the Japanese have shipped 68,000 more cars and light vans to the EEC than for the same period in 1986, an increase of 28 per cent.

"They see us as the soft underbelly which can be easily penetrated," said Mr Karl Heinz Narges, the EEC industry commissioner.

Exports to America and other markets are slowing down and the industry now believes Japan is targeting its car exports on Europe.

Mr Narges said: "If we continue to take action on a purely voluntary basis then we are convinced Japan will do nothing. The Japanese have repeatedly offered us some kind of moderation."

West Germany will almost certainly bear the brunt of the extra imports as it is the largest EEC car market which has no restrictions on the sales of Japanese cars.

Sir John Egan, chairman of Jaguar and president of the European manufacturers' confederation, CCMC, has already warned Mr Narges that the Japanese onslaught could cost 100,000 jobs in Europe.

The CCMC is "evaluating the compatibility of the February shipments with Japan's talk of moderation" and is likely to step up the call for action to halt the flood of imports.

Next week British car industry executives fly to Japan for the annual round of talks.

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with the JAMA, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association.

They will discuss the continuation of the Japanese "undertaking to market prudently in Britain" which, since 1975, has limited Japanese imports to 11 per cent of the British market.

Last year the Japanese sold 205,000 cars in Britain and although the "undertaking" is set to continue, the Japanese are known to feel the limit has long served its purpose of restricting imports while the then beleaguered BL recovered.

This year Nissan will sell 24,000 Sunderland-built cars in Britain, though these will count as imports until 1988.

Some 7,000 Hondas assembled by Austin Rover will be sold as British-built due to their high local content.

The extra Japanese exports in January and February would allow the Japanese car makers to achieve a 6 per cent sales growth this year, even if they agreed to limit shipments to the 1986 level for the remainder of the year.

This would push Japanese car sales within Europe up from 1.36 million to 1.44 million in 1987, accounting for over 12 per cent of the European market. In 1986, only 68,000 cars were imported into Japan, just 2 per cent of the market for 3 million new cars a year.

The Japanese manufacturers argue that the higher shipments at the beginning of the year were needed to replenish stocks depleted by exports which were cut sharply in November and December in response to EEC protests that sales had jumped 19 per cent in 1986.

Two thirds of the "lost" shipments have now been recovered and the Japanese have also focused on the export of cars which are more profitable than light vans.

In the first two months of the year, overall vehicle shipments went up by 28 per cent, yet car exports jumped by 34 per cent while those for vans fell by 11 per cent.

## Thatcher ensures obscenity Bill win

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

The Prime Minister, flanked by Cabinet and junior ministers, helped to ensure a 137 Commons majority yesterday for a private member's Bill extending the 1959 Obscene Publications Act to television and radio.

The Bill, strongly opposed by programme makers, also widens the scope of the Act by bringing material that "a reasonable person would regard as grossly offensive" within the definition of obscenity.

Under the present statute only articles deemed "likely to deprave and corrupt" are regarded as obscene.

But last night it was far from clear that the Bill, introduced by Mr Gerald Howarth, Conservative MP for Cannock and Burnwood, would proceed beyond its second reading.

As the level of ministerial support indicates, the Government is prepared to give it a "fair wind", but this does not yet extend to including it in its parliamentary timetable.

After winning the vote, Mr Howarth predicted a "hard battle" before getting it on the statute book.

Mr Howarth said he had been given no indication that the Government would allocate time for the committee stage, where the Bill is likely

to get bogged down, but if an election were delayed he hoped it might be slotted in.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, supported the Bill, as did Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, and Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Labour MPs claimed the Bill would restrict artistic freedom and could lead to censorship of important reports.

Mr Howarth told MPs the existing law was inadequate to protect viewers from scenes of gratuitous violence and explicit sex, because broadcasting was excluded from the 1959 Act.

Mr Norman Buchan, Labour MP for Paisley South and a former arts spokesman, said the Bill set out a vague definition which would inhibit broadcasting freedom.

Mrs Mary Whitehouse, president of the National Viewers and Listeners Association, said she was "absolutely delighted" at the vote.

Earlier, Mr Michael Grade, BBC TV director of programmes, said in a radio interview that the Bill was censorious and would stifle artistic creativity.

Parliament, page 4

## Hindley 'hid the truth to survive'

By Ian Smith

Myra Hindley, who may face trial for her involvement in the murders of two missing youngsters to whose moorland graves she has led detectives, disclosed yesterday that she had hidden the truth for 22 years as the only way of surviving a long prison sentence.

In a statement released through her solicitor, Hindley, who is serving a life sentence in Cookham Wood prison, in Rochester, Kent, said that at first she was still obsessed and infatuated with Ian Brady, her accomplice, who had drawn her into macabre murders.

"I could not bring myself to admit the truth about our crime," her statement said. Her transfer to Cookham Wood, in 1983, she saw as "simply" an alternative prison, although some people had interpreted it as a step towards eventual release. With the help she received there, "I began to realize I could become open and frank about my case."

Police have begun digging at the Shiny Brook area of Saddleworth moor to which Hindley led the search team. Once the bodies are recovered Mr James Anderton, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, will submit a report to the Director of Public Prosecutions detailing Hindley's part in the deaths of Keith Bennett, aged 12, and Pauline Reade, aged 16.

The report will be based upon interviews conducted by Mr Peter Topping, head of CID, during his visits to Hindley at Cookham Wood.

Also made available to Sir Thomas Hetherington will be documents outlining the conversations between Mr Topping and Hindley during her two visits to the moor.

Whether Hindley or Brady will ever stand trial is matter of intense speculation. Brady is now at Park Lane special hospital on Merseyside and his solicitor expects that Dr Malcolm MacCulloch, the medical director, will say that his patient is unfit to plead.

Many politicians also believe putting Hindley on trial would be a waste of public funds. Mr Geoffrey Dickens, MP, said last night that he would advise against legal proceedings.

"She and Brady were child butchers and must spend the rest of their lives in jail. But from what I am told by previous Home Secretaries there is not the slightest chance of her ever being released, so it would be a pointless waste of public money and a terrible ordeal for her child victims' parents."

Mrs Winifred Johnson, the mother of Keith Bennett who disappeared on June 16, 1964, said she and other parents would demand that Hindley be put on trial. "We have lived with this nightmare for so many years that now it is finally coming to an end justice must be seen to be done."

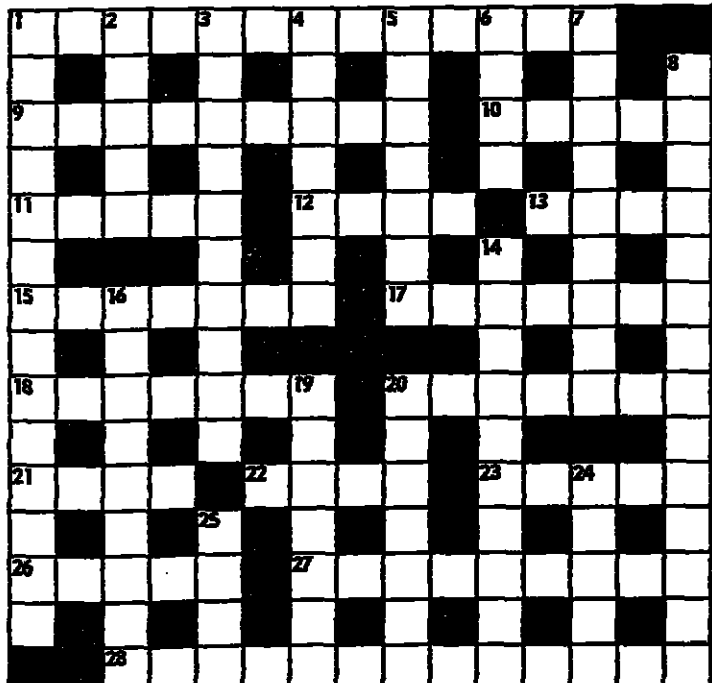
## The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,322

### ACROSS

- Sort of contrivance to get on horse in bath (5,8)
- An old Digger, like Prince Henry (9)
- Article about professional production of "Pinafore" (5)
- Round house for use by Pole (5)
- Cuts down the Central Lines (4)
- Said to be top dog (4)
- Ortega resolved about the end of punishment in Spain (7)
- Biblical exile, rescued by Rachel (7)
- Elusive quality of Kipling's beggar's mind (7)
- Engineer's so-called hero, Proctor's assistant (7)
- Boat John could lead to fish (4)
- Dirge with a point (4)
- Dined in on cereal (5)
- Spout about love and the marriage tie (5)
- As new eras unfold, knowledge accrues (9)
- Government by Tridentine, dare one say, is in the air? (4,9)

### DOWN

- Drapery over the beds made Babylonian wonder (7,7)
- Striking place for Harley Granville Barker's central characters (5)
- The kind of spirit to silence the knockers? (4-6)
- Go faster, though not in step (7)
- Hands of the Hispaniola on the island of the Jews (7)
- A cleaner kind of opera (4)
- Alice, say, can produce us a minder (9)
- Cultural class are spoilt, all sitting in east we hear (14)
- Sounds like the boy on the fence — a consumer of grapes (10)
- Main supplies are collected here (9)
- Woolly animal, the dearest thing (3,4)
- Asian mountain I walk slowly up (7)
- Machbeth was the key name in one spell (5)
- Share transaction (4)



### Solution to Puzzle No 17,321

ACROSS  
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Executive Editor  
Kenneth Fleet  
STOCK MARKETFT 30 Share  
1546.4 (-21.2)FT-SE 100  
1965.1 (-22.6)Bargains  
59197 (50718)USM (Datastream)  
162.23 (-0.02)

## THE POUND

US dollar  
1.8145 (+0.0160)W German mark  
2.9295 (+0.0154)Trade-weighted  
71.9 (+0.5)NZ listing  
for  
News Corp

A listing has been granted by the New Zealand Stock Exchange for shares in News Corporation Ltd, the world-wide publishing group controlled by Mr Rupert Murdoch. This follows the listing in London in November last year. The shares are also quoted in Australia and New York.

News Corporation's involvement in New Zealand, through its 40 per cent holding in Independent Newspapers, has been expanded this year by its purchase of the Australian Herald and Weekly Times group, which also has publishing interests in the country.

## DTI appeal

The Government has decided to appeal against the decision of Mr Justice Hoffmann ruling that Mr Jeremy Warner, a journalist, was justified in not answering questions put to him by DTI inspectors investigating insider dealing by civil servants. The appeal will be heard next Friday.

## Britoil option

The Stock Exchange is introducing traded options in the shares of Amstar and Britoil on April 23, bringing the total number of equity options traded on the exchange's traded option market to 49.

## Debut date

Watergate International, the property company, is coming to the market via a placing of 5 million shares which will value the company at £30.6 million. Hoare Govett is the broker and dealings will begin on April 13.

## STOCK MARKETS

|           |             |                   |
|-----------|-------------|-------------------|
| New York  | Dow Jones   | 2333.52 (+13.07)  |
| Tokyo     | Nikkei Dow  | 22410.85 (+43.13) |
| Hong Kong | Hang Seng   | 2679.99 (-29.42)  |
| Amsterdam | Gen         | 283.5 (+0.8)      |
| Sydney    | AO          | 1721.7 (+24.2)    |
| Frankfurt | Commerzbank | 1835.9 (-9.3)     |
| Brussels  | General     | 4484.49 (+48.44)  |
| Paris     | CAC         | 456.9 (+4.2)      |
| Zurich    | SKA         | 545.50 (+5.00)    |
| London    | FT A        | 1965.1            |
| FT. Gilt  |             | 89.91 (same)      |

## INTEREST RATES

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| London Bank Base          | 10%          |
| 3-month interbank 9%      | 9%           |
| 3-month eligible bills 9% | 9%           |
| buying rate               |              |
| US Prime Rate             | 7 1/4%       |
| Federal Funds             | 5 1/4%       |
| 3-month Treasury Bills    | 5.46-5.45%   |
| 30-year bonds             | 8 1/2-8 1/4% |

## CURRENCIES

|              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| London       | New York      |
| \$1.8145     | \$1.8145      |
| £1.2925      | £1.2925       |
| SwF2.4468    | SwF2.4468     |
| FF4.7395     | FF4.7395      |
| Yen226.07    | Yen226.07     |
| Index: 71.9  | Index: 71.9   |
| ECU £0.70894 | SDR £0.802343 |

## MAIN PRICE CHANGES

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| RISER:            |             |
| Stagley           | 682p (+12p) |
| Johnston Group    | 440p (+35p) |
| Crown House       | 235p (+15p) |
| Attorney Computer | 572p (+12p) |
| T Cowie           | 332p (+12p) |
| Honcon Travel     | 187p (+22p) |
| Home Counties     | 425p (+15p) |
| Hill Samuel       | 457p (+25p) |
| Electronic Data   | 128p (+14p) |
| United Packaging  | 144p (+25p) |
| Worcester Group   | 565p (+30p) |
| Argyle Trust      | 191p (+23p) |
| RTZ               | 825p (+23p) |

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| FALLS:           |             |
| Blue Circle      | 800p (-15p) |
| Royal Insurance  | 938p (-26p) |
| ICI              | 129p (-22p) |
| Laird Group      | 301p (-19p) |
| Scottish TV      | 195p (-28p) |
| GUS A            | 195p (-28p) |
| Reckitt & Colman | 950p (-25p) |

|               |                                   |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| GOLD          |                                   |
| London Fixing | AM \$418.65 PM \$418.70           |
| close         | \$418.75-419.25 (\$258.25-258.75) |
| New York      | Comex \$418.80-417.30*            |

|                                |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| NORTH SEA OIL                  |                      |
| Brent (May) 1pm                | \$18.05 bb (\$18.05) |
| * Denotes latest trading price |                      |
| Stock Market                   | 22 City Diary 23     |
| Wall Street                    | 22 Teapack 24        |
| Money Mkts                     | 22 Unit Trusts 24    |
| Foreign Exch                   | 22 Commodities 24    |
| Traded Opis                    | 22 USM Pric 24       |
| Comment                        | 23 Share Prices 25   |

No trade war  
says ChannonMinister will demand  
fair deal from Tokyo

By Colin Narbrough

Mr Paul Channon, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, yesterday sought to dispel fears of an imminent trade war with Japan over Tokyo's reluctance to give Cable and Wireless a big slice of Japan's international telecommunications market.

"We don't want a trade war," Mr Channon said. "We're not interested in trade wars."

The Government was simply insisting on improved access to the Japanese market for British firms, especially in the Tokyo Stock Market.

He was speaking on the eve of the departure for Tokyo of Mr Michael Howard, Minister for Corporate and Consumer Affairs, for talks on bilateral reciprocity in financial services and trade.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, will also be taking up the issue of trade distortions and unequal practices operated by Japan at a meeting of EEC foreign ministers near Antwerp this weekend.

The portion of Mr Nakasone's letter to Mrs Thatcher leaked to the local Press yesterday seemed to indicate that he was hewing close to the line of the ministry of post and telecommunications, saying there was room for only one competitor in Japan's international telecommunications market.

He wrote that foreign capital was welcome but unification of the competing consortia into a single new company, as proposed by the mediator on Thursday, was preferable. He urged Mrs Thatcher to await the outcome of the private negotiations.

Mr Shunjiro Karasawa, the MPT minister, told the cabinet that he wanted the new company to be formed through private sector nego-

Mr Channon indicated that the rising yen gave British exporters a good opportunity to help restore some balance to its trade with Japan. Last year, Japan had a £3.7 billion trade surplus with Britain.

He underlined that the C&W issue and possible measures against Japanese financial institutions were not linked.

City fears that moves against Japanese banks and insurance firms in London could provoke a withdrawal by important institutions, have unsettled the market and brought cries of caution from the business world. The Government was trying to tone down any suggestion that Mr Howard was to deliver an ultimatum to the Japanese.

Japanese efforts to prevent C&W, the British telecommunications group, from taking a 20 per cent stake in a consortium bidding for part of Japan's telephone market last week triggered rage in the Commons.

Britain wanted "general

reciprocity," Mr Howard said, and the removal of artificial barriers. "We are not looking for reciprocity on a one-to-one basis. It won't be as mechanistic as that."

C&W would also feature in his talks, which include a meeting with the arch-opponent of the British company's bid, Mr Shunjiro Karasawa, the Japanese minister of post and telecommunications.

City economists believe Britain might hurt itself more than it hurts Japan if it expelled Japanese banks from London. Japan's financial muscle was liable to suffer little lasting damage and could easily relocate to Frankfurt or Paris.

"This kind of sabre-rattling could end with both sides doing things they may regret later," said Mr Gerry Davies, of Goldman Sachs, the broker.

Mr John Smith, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, was less guarded about what Britain should seek in Tokyo, calling for "pretty rough treatment" to be meted out

## 'Japan-bashing' protest

From David Watts, Tokyo

Japan is surrounded by foes and "Japan bashing" is spreading from the United States to Europe, in the view of Mr Tadashi Kuranari, the Japanese foreign minister.

But neither Mr Kuranari nor Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the prime minister, offered much hope that the British Government's anger over Cable and Wireless's entry to Japan would be alleviated soon.

The portion of Mr Nakasone's letter to Mrs Thatcher leaked to the local Press yesterday seemed to indicate that he was hewing close to the line of the ministry of post and telecommunications, saying there was room for only one competitor in Japan's international telecommunications market.

He wrote that foreign capital was welcome but unification of the competing consortia into a single new company, as proposed by the mediator on Thursday, was preferable. He urged Mrs Thatcher to await the outcome of the private negotiations.

Mr Shunjiro Karasawa, the MPT minister, told the cabinet that he wanted the new company to be formed through private sector nego-

tiation and if a foreign director were admitted to the new board it would be unprecedented by the standards of British Telecom and AT&T.

He said the British market was twice the size of Japan's at the time of BT's privatization and yet the British Government had admitted only a single competitor to BT.

Mr Kuranari said the government should do its utmost to prevent Britain from following the US in retaliating against Japan.

Asked if he felt there was a concerted Anglo-American anti-Japanese movement, he said: "That's a good question

but as foreign minister I'm not in a position to answer."

The Japanese government, meanwhile, is considering a change to allow foreign investors, both private and corporate, to purchase shares in Nippon Telephone and Telegraph. The hint of a change appeared to be partly in preparation for next week's visit by Mr Michael Howard, Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

The ministry of finance declined to comment officially on the possibility of British sanctions, but privately a senior official told *The Times*: "The cause of the dispute and the means being used are two completely different things."

"But the idea of using sanctions implies the degree of anger and anxiety on the part of the Thatcher Government. It's very impressive in that sense. But once it is implemented, I wonder whether such a measure would not be counter-productive."

A spokesman for Nomura Securities said: "The whole thing does not seem to be very concrete and I don't think it will be realized."

Nomura is incorporated as a British company, we have 450 employees."

Figures backed, page 23

Kuranari: British retaliation must be prevented

Figures backed, page 23

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Paul Channon: no link between C&amp;W dispute and possible moves against Japanese banks

Bass in £95m agreed bid for  
Horizon travel group

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Bass, Britain's biggest brewer which has been expanding in the leisure field, yesterday made an agreed £94.8 million bid for Horizon Travel, Britain's third-largest foreign package holidays operator.

At the same time, the second-largest tour operator, Mr Harry Goodman's International Leisure Group, was preparing to bring out its detailed proposals - probably on Monday - for buying out shareholders and taking ILG back as a private company.

Mr Goodman hinted yesterday at an offer price approaching 190p against a closing price last night of 178p, up 2p on the day.

Bass already holds 25.6 per cent of Horizon, a stake built up last year, but Mr Ron Brierley, the New Zealand entrepreneur, had also taken a 17.5 per cent stake in Horizon.

Bass and Horizon said yesterday that the offer had been agreed because Bass's resources would enable Horizon to develop considerably faster and more profitably than it could by itself.

Mr Bruce Tanner, who

helped to set up Birmingham-based Horizon in 1965, as managing director, is to step down as executive chairman of Horizon. Mr Tanner, who is 56, said: "I shall have a close and continuing role with Horizon but it will not be full-time."

The Bass move came only three days after it had sold off the Pontins holiday centres company for £57.5 million, reflecting a Bass strategy on holidays of looking outside Britain for growth.

It has already a shared hotels company with Horizon, with 14 properties around the Mediterranean, including 11 in Spain.

Mr Ian Prosser, vice-chairman of Bass and group managing director, said: "Horizon fits very well with the leisure side of our business because the customer base is very similar. We see this holidays area as one of significant growth."

Horizon's own aircraft cap-

acity will be increased with the arrival soon of two leased Airbus but the company is seen by many in the industry as facing a hard battle in seizing substantially more market share in the packaged holidays market where Thomson Holidays, the market leader, and ILG together account for rather more than half the market.

The proposed buyout of ILG, led by Mr Goodman, is aimed at taking short-term stock market pressures off the operation as it develops its Air Europe as an important charter airline.

On Monday, the Civil Aviation Authority will be hearing ILG applications for 11 European routes.

Mr Goodman said of the buyout offer: "There is not one shareholder who will not make a substantial profit." Mr Goodman, one of the most colourful figures in the travel industry, said he would be investing substantially in the buyout. "You will be able to count it in millions," he said.

Nervous  
stock  
market  
fallsBy David Smith  
Economics Correspondent

Share prices fell in London yesterday as nerves over the trade conflict with Japan persisted. But the pound, apparently freed from the shackles of a fixed target, rose strongly. Private clients were unloading stocks at the end of the tax year, which also hit prices. Market operators said that this selling compounded the effects of nervousness brought about by the prospect of a trade war.

The FT 30 Share index closed 21.2 points down at 1,546.4. The wider FT-SE 100 index fell by 22.6 points to 1,965.1.

"In this situation, there is a lot of temptation to take profits, and that is what people have been doing," one trader said.

Some operators expected further price falls early next week, although there was evidence of buying when the market was weak yesterday. At one stage the FT 30 index was down by 30 points.

Share price weakness appears to have been confined to London. In Tokyo, shares rose to record highs, and in New York, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up by 6.82 points to 2,327.27 in late morning trading.

The gilt market was also weak, in spite of the pound's recovery, closing around half a point down on the day.

The pound rose by 1.6 cents to \$1.8145, helped by the Chancellor's clarification of comments on sterling earlier in the week. It also gained against the mark, rising by nearly two pence to DM2.9312. The sterling index rose by 0.5 points to 71.9.

The pound had been briefly stuck below \$1.60 and at DM2.90 on Thursday, after the Chancellor had mentioned these figures at Wednesday's National Economic Development Council meeting.

Mr Lawson's rejection of specific target figures for the pound does not alter the fact that sterling is being targeted within an unpublished range.

It is likely that, at the February meeting of the leading six industrial countries, sterling's range was specified against the mark, while the three major currencies - the dollar, yen and mark - were targeted against one another.

Indications from the Bank of England's intervention and interest rate tactics is a range for sterling against the mark of about DM2.80 to DM3.

But because of concern over credit demand in the economy, the Bank of England is likely to attempt to head off any move for sterling towards the DM3 level.

Market report, page 22  
Share prices, page 25

BP scrip issue to  
widen its appeal

By Ray Heath

Confirmation that the Government's planned sale of its remaining 31.7 per cent stake in British Petroleum will be another exercise in promoting wider share ownership came with the news that the oil company is to split its shares to reduce their value.

The company is making a two-for-one scrip issue which will have the effect of reducing the market price to about one third of its present heavy-weight level of more than £9.

Even if the Government maintains its tradition of increasing the initial attraction of the issue by making the shares partly-paid, at the full

price of £9 or so, the low number of shares that small investors would be able to afford would be seen as a deterrent to their participation.

An individual applying for the minimum value of £500 laid down in the British Airways issue, would only receive 55 BP shares at the present price.

The opportunity of buying 165 would be seen as much more attractive to the unsophisticated subscriber, particularly if the pattern of the previous BP issue in 1983 is followed, and the first instalment is around half the price.

Figures backed, page 23

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Debts threat to  
Midland profits

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Midland Bank is considering switching its loans to Third World countries over to a cash accounting basis when it presents its half-year results in six months' time, which could hit the group's profits by £60 million over the full year.

The bank strongly denied a report that it was writing off £90 million of South American loans, but said crude calculations suggested the group's profits could suffer by about £60 million this year if a cash-accounting basis were adopted for bad debts.

The calculation assumes that Brazil would continue to pay no interest on its commercial bank debt for the rest of the year, depriving Midland of the income on its £900 million of long-term loans to the country. But a spokesman said: "We expect to receive interest in due course. If it comes in the second half of the year, it will be included in second-half profits, not the first half."

If Midland retained accrual accounting, it would have to make provisions against the loans. Last year it made pretax profits of £434 million.

Cash accounting means that only income that is actually received from a loan is included in the bank's accounts.

insisting that FAI would have no influence or involvement in the management of Hill Samuel. He said that an unwelcome holding of that size would damage the confidence of the group's clients in the merchant bank.

The Banking Bill becomes law, the Bank will have powers to disenfranchise 15 per cent shareholders whom it considers not to be "fit and proper".

Since the rule will apply retrospectively, Mr Adler could find himself penalized. Hill Samuel shares fell steadily as the likelihood of a bid from FAI receded but the current rumours have revived speculation that a buyer with prior approval from the Bank has become interested.

In another development, Equitycorp, a New Zealand financial services group, has revealed that it has acquired a 26.2 per cent stake in Guinness Peat, the merchant banking group, mainly from Friends Provident.

After a meeting with the company, Mr Alastair Morton, chairman of Guinness Peat, said that it was now up to the shareholders to show their ability to contribute to the group.

'Acceptable' buyer for Hill Samuel may be in offing  
Speculation on bank's future

By Our City Staff

The ownership of Hill Samuel was at the centre of more speculation yesterday as the merchant banking group's shares rose sharply on reports in the stock market that the 15 per cent stake held by FAI, the Australian insurance group, had been sold.

The shares jumped from 428p to 457p on hopes that the stake had passed to an investor who was more acceptable to the Bank of England and the Hill Samuel



# Tax worries stifle late rally

Underlying security price.



# Orchid goes on show at USM with £26.9m tag

By Cliff Feltham

The City had trouble understanding the nature of the business of Orchid Technology, a Silicon Valley computer company, when it tried to come to the Unlisted Securities Market in January, and the flotation was abandoned at the last minute.

But Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker, managed to put the issue on the road again yesterday after talking to the institutions.

"There was a nagging doubt about the business," admitted Mr Robert Wilson, a broker. "Investors just did not understand the technology. So we have done a lot more explaining."

But now the problems have been ironed out and the Californian company is placing just under 17 per cent of its shares at 106p, putting a price tag of £26.9 million on the business. It claims to be the first of its kind on the USM.

Orchid, created by South Vietnamese-born Mr Le Bui, aged 34, who becomes a multi-millionaire as a result of the flotation, supplies equipment that can be strapped on to IBM personal computers to make them work faster and better.

It is also developing desktop publishing products, enabling customers to print documents, such as reports and newsletters, in-house.

The market outside the United States is expanding, and should be helped by the



On the road again: Saïd Shahaby, finance director (left), Le Bui, chairman, and Peter Simonis, non-executive director

USM listing—at £495,000 it is under half the cost of floating in the US.

Orchid, which only started in 1982, expects to make £4 million profits for the current year, compared with £1.1 million last time.

Mr Bui, whose shareholding will make him worth at least £14 million after the flotation, left South Vietnam after winning a scholarship to Cornell University. He started Duong, his brother-in-law and a non-executive director.

So far, he says, the

company's growth has been funded largely from retained earnings. But the board has decided to enlarge its capital base and provide access to equity funding to finance future growth.

"The directors have selected the USM as the best available market for a company in Orchid's current position and a flotation in Britain fits in well with the company's expansion plans for Britain and Europe, combined with the belief that the European market for personal computers is expected to grow

substantially over the next five years."

Orchid estimates that IBM—with about 13 million computers installed around the world, of which 9.6 million are in the United States—will remain the leading personal computer manufacturer.

As a result, it intends to concentrate on designing products that can be used to "enhance" the IBM equipment.

Orchid has a price earnings multiple of 11.9 based on the profit forecast for the current year.

## Co-op's chief executive to retire

By Derek Harris  
Industrial Editor

Mr Bill Farrow, one of the most powerful figures in the co-operative movement and a pioneer of supermarkets, is retiring early as chief executive of Co-operative Retail Services, the biggest co-op retailer.

Mr Farrow, aged 61, is to retire later this year on health grounds. He collected the highest honour in the co-operative movement last year when he became 1986 president of the Co-operative Congress, the movement's annual parliament.

He proved one of the co-op's most controversial presidents. In a key speech he attacked the Co-operative Wholesale Society as being a handicap to retail societies trying to respond to fierce competition in the high streets.

Behind the criticism was the belief that the CWS, supplier of goods and services to the retail societies, did not always offer as good a trading margin as could be secured by a big society buying direct from manufacturers or importers.

Mr Farrow, who joined the co-operative movement in Oldham as a junior clerk, became one of its most successful traders.

He built up the Potteries-based North Midland retail society by developing supermarkets in the late Sixties and early Seventies. The co-operative movement, with more than 60 superstores, is the third-largest operator of such outlets in Britain.

Subsequently, Mr Farrow became chief executive of United Co-operatives, formed by a merger of North Midland and the troubled Greater Lancashire society operating in the North-west.

When he went to CRS three-and-a-half years ago, its finances had been hit after absorbing the old loss-making London retail society. The traditional CRS role had been as an ambulance service for societies in difficulties.

By the end of 1984, a 1983 pretax loss of £3.2 million had been turned around to a pretax profit of £3.6 million. In 1985, this was boosted to a profit of £7 million.

Yesterday, CRS announced a doubling of pretax profits for 1986 to £14 million.

CRS, with a turnover in excess of £1 billion, had by the end of last year reduced borrowings by £12 million and increased reserves by a quarter to £92 million.

Prospects for a further improvement this year are said to be "encouraging."

## COMMENT

# Leapfrogging markets were heading for a fall

It is a truism that financial markets hate nothing so much as uncertainty. But if anything is worth remembering about the gyrations of equity markets this week, it is that. Not, of course, that there was too much uncertainty in evidence. As usual when markets make sharp moves up or down, there are always plenty of theories on hand to be dusted off and trotted out as analysis.

The panic selling in New York and Tokyo at the start of the week, was, said some, entirely due to the prospects of a trade war with Japan. London followed suit and commentators added a dash of local flavour by throwing in the far-fetched idea that Japanese banks would soon be thrown unceremoniously out of the City and that a retaliatory withdrawal of Far Eastern investment funds would then be inevitable. This doggedly ignores the facts.

For all its political sabre rattling, the Government does not want this, the City hates the idea and the Japanese will go to great lengths to ensure it does not happen. But never mind the quality. As a rationalization of events, the story superficially fitted the bill.

A far more plausible explanation for the recent upsets is the all-too-familiar uncertainty factor. The hard reality is that the extraordinary rises in share prices seen around the world since the start of the year are not well-founded.

There are sound reasons why investors should be prudently uneasy about what happens next. For many, that means it is sensible to secure some of the extraordinary windfall profits which they have enjoyed in the past few months.

Day after day since the new year, the global equity market has indulged in a bizarre form of leapfrog with itself. Tokyo rose on the back of Wall Street, London rose on the back of Tokyo, and Wall Street rose on the back of London. If anything, Tokyo, where the equity markets are close on 40 per cent higher than last autumn, was the key influence. Its rise since last autumn has been steeper and higher than elsewhere.

Furthermore, Japan's cash-rich institutions have been exporting their own bullishness as heavy buyers of shares in other leading financial centres. In New York, the market surge has been largely liquidity-driven, not the best of fundamental influences. In London it has been powered to an uncomfortably high degree by funds from abroad.

As an engine of growth in world stock markets, Tokyo leaves a great deal to be desired. The high value of the yen relative to the dollar has already done great damage to the competitiveness of Japanese exports in key consumer markets. The outlook for corporate profits growth is grim. Company earnings, having fallen last year, will be flat or static this year, according to most

forecasts. Leading stocks on the Tokyo market have been selling on a rating of 50 times earnings. Even adjusting for the accounting differences between Japan and the rest of the world, this is over-ripe by relative and absolute standards.

Wall Street has also become detached from underlying reality. It has displayed an unnerving ability to take bad news in its stride. This is true both on a global scale, as in the damaging revelations over Iran and the Brazilian debt crisis, and domestically too. The steady drip-feed of fresh insider-trading scandals did no more than restrain the market briefly. The yield on equities dipped below 3 per cent—the lowest for 12 years. Investors brushed aside the inflationary consequences of the falling dollar.

In London, share prices are expensive by historical standards too. They have been boosted by hopes of a Budget which did less than expected for consumer spending. An early re-election of the Government has been fully discounted, and dividend yields have hardly been lower since 1973.

On other measures, such as the yield comparison with gilt-edged stock, the London market was looking topsey before this week's setback. Overseas investors have played an influential role in the near-20 per cent rise in the All-Share Index since the end of last year.

Viewed from afar, Britain's economy, set to be among the pacemakers of Europe in growth terms this year, makes London an attractive home for funds. But closer scrutiny suggests plenty of grounds for the uncertainty which underlies the traumas of the past week.

The pattern of events in London last year and on several occasions during the past four years, has been a series of sharp rises in the market based on hopes for a decline in gilt-edged yields. What has bailed out the optimists on each occasion when the predicted falls in interest rates failed to emerge? Eventually, strong growth in company earnings has validated over-blown market levels.

This year, strong earnings growth is already factored into everyone's forecasts. As long as nothing occurs to upset expectations of a rise in the region of 15 per cent or so, all will be well for the time being. Next year, for which estimates are necessarily tentative, may prove to be relatively disappointing for corporate profits. Those who have sketched-in estimates suggest the rise will be in single figures for the first time in several years.

If one thing is surprising about this week's mayhem in the markets, it is surely that it did not take place sooner.

John Bell  
City Editor

## Weir issue to raise £10.9m

By Michael Tate

Ordinary shareholders in Weir, the Glasgow engineering group, are being asked for £10.9 million to buy out its preference shareholders.

The £10 million of 10 per cent redeemable preference capital is proving too expensive to run, says Weir. However, under company law it can only be bought out with cash from distributable reserves or through a new share issue. Since Weir's management wants to conserve the cash flow to finance the group's expansion, it has chosen to raise the money via a rights issue.

Holders are offered one share at 157p for every seven held, compared with the stock market price yesterday of 174p.

The announcement accompanied 1986 results, showing that the sale of its interests in Yarrow and Deland Weir have helped pump profits up from £9.03 million to £15.05 million. These disposals brought in profits of £3.53 million and £3.69 million respectively.

They have wiped out borrowings and left the group cash-rich, which will be used to fund its development strategy. A final dividend of 2.5p a share makes 3.5p for the year.

## BP backs Opec figures

By David Young

BP has confirmed its faith in Opec to adhere to its present agreement on prices and production in the official document it has submitted in support of its bid for the shares in its United States subsidiary Standard Oil which is not already held.

The company has also re-emphasized that it regards its \$7.4 billion (£4.6 billion) offer for the outstanding Standard Oil shares at \$70 (£43.75p) a share as fair and final.

The offer document from BP, whose chairman is Sir Peter Walters—and its financial adviser is the US, Goldman Sachs—says that it is based on valuations made, in part, on the basis of certain non-public information concerning Standard Oil.

There are still concerns within sectors of the industry that BP will either have to



Sir Peter Walters

increase its offer or fight disgruntled small shareholders in the US courts before it can win total ownership of Standard Oil.

The offer document says that on the day of the offer three Standard Oil shareholders brought a purported class

action against BP in the Ohio Court of Common Pleas in Cleveland.

The action alleges that the offer is fraudulent in that the price is unfair but the document says: "The BP Group regards the action as baseless."

"Although future oil price trends are very uncertain BP considers a price in the region of \$18 a barrel for North Sea Brent crude oil to be the appropriate planning assumption while Opec maintains its quota arrangement to support price stability."

● A 0.25 per cent stake in the giant BP Forties North Sea oilfield yesterday changed hands for £3.2 million.

The share was sold by Carterhall Petroleum to the RTZ group. Carterhall will use the cash, £1 million of which has been deferred until the end of June, to repay some debt and to provide working capital for new exploration.

## Record £6.9m for Johnston

By Jo Joseph

Shares in Johnston Group, the mechanical and civil engineer, leapt 35p to 440p yesterday after the company announced a healthier-than-expected performance in the second half of 1986.

Pretax profits for the year ending last December climbed 25 per cent to a record £6.94 million, eclipsing the

directors' own predictions, made at the halfway stage, of a £6.25 million return for the year.

Johnston has sometimes suffered at the hands of disappointed investors when it took too rosy a view of its own profit prospects. It managed to avoid that mistake yesterday. Group turnover swelled to £74,806 million from £62,092 million in 1985, with earnings per share growing to 40.96p from 30.98p. There is a final dividend of 6p, making 5p for the year, against 7.5p the previous 12 months.

All main divisions had a good year, but the biggest improvement was in civil engineering supplies, where profits rose to £3,647 million last year from £2,025 million

in 1985, with earnings per share growing to 40.96p from 30.98p. There is a final dividend of 6p, making 5p for the year, against 7.5p the previous 12 months.

The joint spend on acquisitions and the capital front last year was £52 million, the benefits of which will come through in time. The train division in Metro-Cammell won orders in Hong Kong and at home worth £130 million in 1985, and last year had a £36 million order for new trains for the Jubilee underground line, and an £80 million order from British Rail. In addition, the new London taxi was launched late last year, for which potential is good, and there was a useful £10 million order for midi-buses. But the substantial deliveries which these orders imply will not come through to the profits line just yet.

The shares fell 17p to 303p yesterday on 1986 results, and realization that if 1987 profits do just top the £30 million mark, then that still will not be very exciting. Until a stronger profits performance is evident, there are better bets around.

## Laird Group

Laird Group is trying to do what a leopard never can—change its spots. But it is a long, slow business, and not before 1988-89, when the benefits of new orders and rationalization measures come through, will Laird be seen to be up and running.

Profits for the year ended December, at £28.19 million compared with £28.98 million, and the six-year rising trend. But then it was a year of ups and a few nasty downs for Laird.

Profits from the transport systems division, the old core of the business, fell from £4.5 million to £2.4 million; specialist engineering, hit by a sharp downturn in cable belt demand because of dreary conditions in the mining industry, turned in only £399,000 against £3.79 million; while the service industries division experienced problems with Almac Plastics and was left to turn in profits

of £4.2 million against £6.2 million.

New York Twist Drill was a particular headache, and has been written down by £9.7 million in the books, so if a buyer comes along with a sensible price, expect Laird to be a willing seller.

The brightest spot was the sealing systems business, where profits advanced from £13.78 million to £21.4 million, and largely saved Laird's face. The group was also helped by £1 million of acquisition profits, and in-flight catering interests had a good year and expanded into the selling of pre-cooked meals to supermarkets.

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## TEMPUS

# Building on profit profiles

Housebuilders' profiles have risen over the past decade. They are no longer frowned on because of their cyclical and cash-hungry natures. Instead, they are providers of undiminished wealth.

Demand has been strong but rising prices of both land and the finished product have been as important as higher volumes in improving profitability.

Sir Lawrie Barratt, chairman of Barratt Developments, deserves much of the credit for promoting housing as a consumer product where quality and service are important.

Architects and building materials producers have risen to the challenge and are working with builders to produce aesthetically pleasing homes.

Housebuilders have also enjoyed a long period of low price rises for materials and labour.

Land remains the builder's most important commodity. Not only does it satisfy the popular idea that location is crucial but it also enables developers to make a secondary profit from the increase in land value. However, builders also have to be able to afford to replace it.

As yet, the buoyancy of the market has meant the momentum behind builders has enabled them to keep up with events. But profits would slump if demand dried up and prices levelled out, leaving developers to sell houses built on expensive land.

The traditional cyclical nature of the sector is reluctant to reveal itself. Forecasts of volume and price are strong for this year and next. Demand is underpinned by

economic factors, such as higher disposable incomes and good mortgage availability, and by demand factors such as the increase in one-parent families and trading-up by council house buyers.

The past 12 months or so have seen unusual activity in the sector: rights issues, takeover bids and new issues have been frequent. Thus, many companies are under pressure to meet shareholders' expectations and take a positive view of the future.

Nevertheless, ratings do not look excessive—the industry average appears to be about 12 times prospective earnings.

Some are above this, reflecting higher than average margins—Berkeley Homes and Wilson (Connolly)—or, as in the case of McCarthy & Stone, dominate a specialist market. New issues such as Charles Church appear to be optimistically priced, given the proven value already available in the sector.

Countryside Properties, Persimmon and Fairbairn are typical of the new generation of housebuilders. They have grown by using local expertise to good advantage, then moving on. Knowing the market remains the key to success.

The strategy adopted by Wilson (Connolly) remains the envy of all. By prudent land buying and careful cost control, it has managed to build up a fair-sized operation making about £10,000 pretax profit per unit—more than double the industry average.

Consistency has characterized its housebuilding

record over the years, making it the perfect investment for those inclined to be nervous about the rest of the sector.

By its own admission, Wilson does not aim to produce spectacular results one year and run out of steam the next. It intends to remain in business and produce consistent profits and earnings growth.

Its 29 per cent increase in 1986 pretax profits to £22.2 million announced earlier this week was unexciting compared to some of the competition but it can perform as well even in a bad year. This stock should remain a core holding whatever else may befall the sector.

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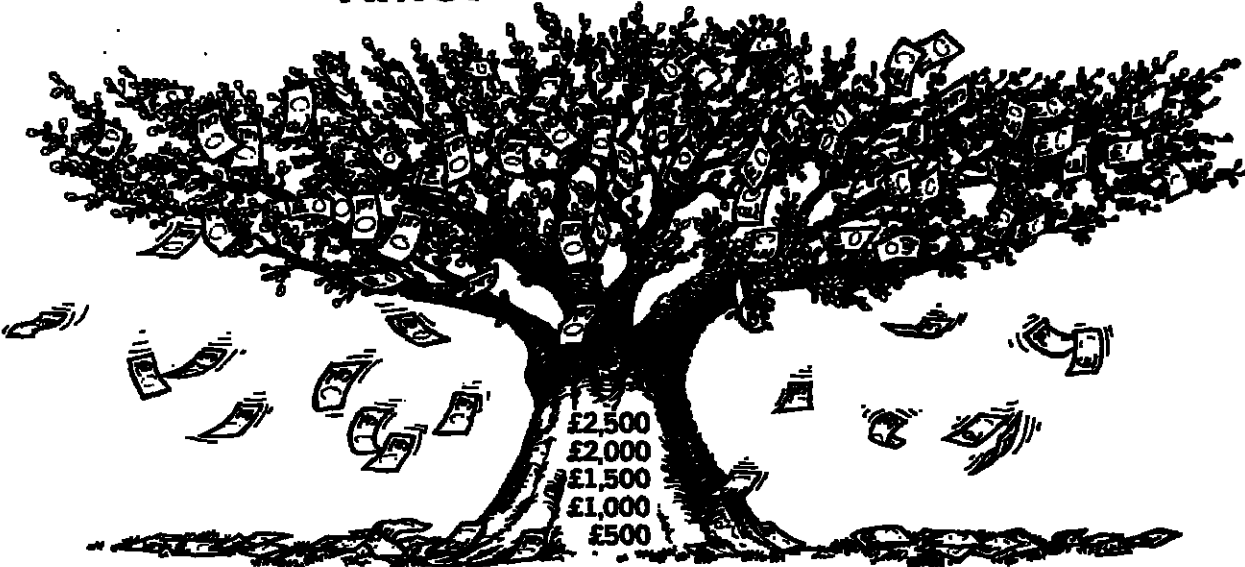


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| 1980 | 1,165  | 19,116  |
| 1981 | 1,270  | 20,467  |
| 1982 | 1,389  | 21,932  |
| 1983 | 1,450  | 23,770  |
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| "                    | 6.26                | 4.84 | 3.53 | 10,000-24,999 | 3 mth  | 01-260 8000 |
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|---------------------------------|------|------|------|------------|-------|-------------|
| <b>MONEY FUNDS</b>              |      |      |      |            |       |             |
| Alken Hume Monthly Income       | 6.91 | 5.35 | 3.89 | 1,000 min  | ---   | 01-638 6070 |
| Bank of Scotland                | 6.84 | 5.30 | 3.85 | 2,500 min  | ---   | 01-628 8060 |
| Barclays High Rate Deposit      | 6.88 | 5.33 | 3.88 | 1,000 min  | ---   | 01-628 1567 |
| "                               | 7.00 | 5.42 | 3.94 | 10,000 min | ---   | 01-628 1567 |
| Britannia High Interest         | 7.01 | 5.43 | 3.95 | 2,500 min  | ---   | 01-588 2777 |
| Chubb Money Market Plus         | 7.30 | 5.65 | 4.11 | 2,000 min  | ---   | 01-638 8391 |
| HFC Trust                       | 8.50 | 6.58 | 4.79 | 5,000 min  | ---   | 01-638 8391 |
| Handerson Money Mkt Cheq A/c    | 6.84 | 5.32 | 3.86 | 2,500 min  | ---   | 01-638 8391 |
| L & G High Interest Deposit     | 7.90 | 6.12 | 4.55 | 1,000 min  | 1 mth | 01-388 3211 |
| Lloyds HICA                     | 6.20 | 4.80 | 3.49 | 1,000 min  | ---   | 01-628 1500 |
| M&G HICA                        | 6.91 | 5.35 | 3.89 | 2,500 min  | ---   | 01-628 4588 |
| Midland HICA                    | 6.70 | 5.19 | 3.77 | 2,000 min  | ---   | 0742 52800  |
| "                               | 7.00 | 5.42 | 3.94 | 10,000 min | ---   | 01-728 1000 |
| Nat West High Int Special Res   | 6.88 | 5.33 | 3.88 | 2,000 min  | ---   | 01-728 1000 |
| Oppenheimer Money Mgmt A/c      | 7.29 | 5.65 | 4.11 | 1,000 min  | 1 mth | 01-238 9362 |
| "                               | 7.38 | 5.72 | 4.16 | 10,000 min | 1 mth | 01-238 9362 |
| Royal Bank of Scotland Prem A/c | 7.10 | 5.50 | 4.00 | 2,500 min  | ---   | 031-5570201 |
| Schroder Wagg                   | 6.63 | 5.14 | 3.74 | 2,500 min  | ---   | 0705 827733 |
| Tullet & Riley Call             | 6.82 | 5.28 | 3.84 | 10,000 min | ---   | 01-238 0852 |
| Tullet & Riley 7-day            | 7.26 | 5.62 | 4.08 | 1,000 min  | ---   | 01-238 0852 |
| Tyndall Call                    | 7.36 | 5.70 | 4.15 | 2,500 min  | 7 day | 0272 732241 |
| Tyndall 7-day                   | 7.08 | 5.50 | 3.99 | 2,500 min  | 7 day | 0272 732241 |
| UDT 7-day                       | 7.13 | 5.52 | 4.02 | 2,500 min  | 7 day | 01-628 4861 |
| Western Trust                   | 7.00 | 5.42 | 3.97 | 5,000 min  | 7 day | 01-628 4861 |
| "                               | 7.05 | 5.48 | 3.94 | 2,500 min  | 1 mth | 0752 281161 |

## NATIONAL SAVINGS

|                              |       |       |       |               |        |             |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|--------|-------------|
| Investment A/c               | 8.34  | 6.46  | 4.70  | 5-100,000     | 1 mth  | 041-6494555 |
| Income Bond                  | 8.70  | 6.74  | 4.90  | 2,000-100,000 | 3 mth  | 0253 66151  |
| Deposit Bond                 | 8.70  | 6.74  | 4.90  | 100-100,000   | 3 mth  | 041-6494555 |
| Indexed Income Bond          | 5.68  | 4.40  | 3.20  | 5,000-100,000 | 3 mth  | 0253 66151  |
| Yield Plan                   | 8.84  | 6.84  | 5.84  | 20-200 a mth  | 14 day | 0385 64900  |
| General Extension Rate       | 7.50  | 5.70  | 4.50  |               |        |             |
| Retail Prices Index February | 100.4 | 100.4 | 100.4 |               |        |             |

## GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

|                      |      |      |      |           |       |            |
|----------------------|------|------|------|-----------|-------|------------|
| FPS (Management) Ltd | 9.00 | 7.56 | 6.21 | 1,000 min | 1 yr  | 0992 30488 |
| FPS (Management) Ltd | 9.00 | 7.56 | 6.21 | 1,000 min | 2 yrs | 0992 30488 |
| FPS (Management) Ltd | 9.00 | 7.56 | 6.21 | 1,000 min | 3 yrs | 0992 30488 |
| FPS (Management) Ltd | 9.00 | 7.56 | 6.21 | 1,000 min | 4 yrs | 0992 30488 |
| UK Life              | 9.20 | 7.13 | 5.18 | 2,000 min | 5 yrs | 0403 40033 |

## LOCAL AUTHORITY TOWN HALL BONDS

|               |      |      |      |           |        |             |
|---------------|------|------|------|-----------|--------|-------------|
| Northampton   | 7.15 | 5.54 | 4.03 | 500 min   | 1 yr   | 01-638 6361 |
| Kirkcaldy     | 7.75 | 6.00 | 4.37 | 500 min   | 2 yrs  | 01-638 6361 |
| Kirkcaldy     | 7.75 | 6.00 | 4.37 | 500 min   | 3 yrs  | 01-638 6361 |
| Kirkcaldy     | 7.75 | 6.00 | 4.37 | 500 min   | 4 yrs  | 01-638 6361 |
| Kirkcaldy     | 7.75 | 6.00 | 4.37 | 500 min   | 5 yrs  | 01-638 6361 |
| Great Grimsby | 7.05 | 5.46 | 3.97 | 1,000 min | 6 yrs  | 01-638 6361 |
| Great Grimsby | 7.05 | 5.46 | 3.97 | 1,000 min | 7 yrs  | 01-638 6361 |
| Taff Ely      | 6.48 | 5.02 | 3.65 | 1,000 min | 8 yrs  | 01-638 6361 |
| Taff Ely      | 6.48 | 5.02 | 3.65 | 1,000 min | 9 yrs  | 01-638 6361 |
| Taff Ely      | 6.48 | 5.02 | 3.65 | 1,000 min | 10 yrs | 01-638 6361 |

## FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS

|              |      |      |      |     |       |            |
|--------------|------|------|------|-----|-------|------------|
| Sterling     | 9.07 | 9.07 | 9.07 | --- | 7 day | 0481 26741 |
| US Dollar    | 5.42 | 5.42 | 5.42 | --- | 7 day | 0481 26741 |
| Yen          | 3.27 | 3.27 | 3.27 | --- | 7 day | 0481 26741 |
| D Mark       | 2.86 | 2.86 | 2.86 | --- | 7 day | 0481 26741 |
| French Franc | 7.03 | 7.03 | 7.03 | --- | 7 day | 0481 26741 |
| Swiss Franc  | 3.22 | 3.22 | 3.22 | --- | 7 day | 0481 26741 |

\*Interest Taxable, paid gross \*Tax free \*Higher returns for larger balances \*Higher return for balance over £25,000 \*Other banks may offer \*Extra interest accounts usually pay 1-2 per cent above ordinary accounts \*Increased rate of return in line with rate of inflation \*Returns for higher rate taxpayers may differ Research: Deborah Benn (01-822 9082)

## KEY RATES

Retail Prices Index (Feb '86 to Feb '87) +3.9

Mortgage rate

11.25%

Bank base rate

10%

Bank prime overdraft rate\*

17% APR

Personal loan rate\*

19.6% APR

Credit card rate\*

26.8% APR

Hire purchase rate\*

26% APR

Bank deposit account

4%

Building society or ordinary account

6%

High-interest cheque account\*

7.00%

Holiday exchange rates\*

Spanish pesetas 209

French franc 10.05

Greek drachma 218

Italian lira 2154

\* Typical rates

\* £1,000 over 12 months

## FUND OFFERS

|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| Schroder Income Fund                      | page 26                 |
| M&G                                       | page 27                 |
| Fidelity                                  | pages 27, 28, 31 and 33 |
| MIM Britannia Gold                        | page 28                 |
| Fund                                      | page 28                 |
| Franklin Templeton - corporate            | page 30                 |
| Medical Investment                        | page 32                 |
| Managers                                  | page 32                 |
| San Life of Canada World-wide Growth Fund | page 33                 |

## BASE LENDING RATES

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| ABN                    | 10.00% |
| Adam & Company         | 10.00% |
| BCCI                   | 10.00% |
| Citibank Savings       | 12.45% |
| Consolidated Crds      | 10.00% |
| Co-operative Bank      | 10.00% |
| C. Hoare & Co          | 10.00% |
| Hong Kong & Shanghai   | 10.00% |
| Lloyds Bank            | 10.00% |
| Nat Westminster        | 10.00% |
| Royal Bank of Scotland | 10.00% |
| TSB                    | 10.00% |
| Citibank NA            | 10.00% |

† Mortgage Base Rate.

## UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

| Weekly               |       |       |       | Weekly |       |       |       | Weekly   |       |       |       | Weekly |       |       |       | Weekly  |       |       |       | Weekly |       |       |       | Weekly   |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|----------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|----------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|--|
| Bid                  | Offer | chng  | Yld   | Bid    | Offer | chng  | Yld   | Bid      | Offer | chng  | Yld   | Bid    | Offer | chng  | Yld   | Bid     | Offer | chng  | Yld   | Bid    | Offer | chng  | Yld   | Bid      | Offer | chng  | Yld   | Bid  | Offer | chng  | Yld   |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 |  |
| ACTIA LIFE INSURANCE |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| 01-527 6484          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Life Funds           |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |         |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |
| Capital              | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 | Dividend | 13.50 | 13.50 | +0.00 | Unit   | 14.50 | 14.50 | +0.00 | Capital | 11.00 | 11.00 | +0.00 | Income | 12.50 | 12.50 | +0.00 |          |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |  |



Edited by Peter Gartland

## FAMILY MONEY/1

## THIS WEEK

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## All-purpose loans

Town & Country Building Society is offering unsecured loans to both members and non-members. Loans of £500 to £6,000 are available for any purpose and are repayable over a period of up to five years. The rate of interest is 20.7 per cent APR, fixed for the period of the loan. Requests for loans of up to £3,000 will usually receive an immediate decision. An answer for larger loans will be given within three days.

## Lower tax

The 1987-88 rate for Composite Rate Tax is 0.5 per cent lower than last year, at 24.75 per cent. The new rate will come into effect on Monday. CRT is deducted by all banks, building societies and local authorities from interest-bearing accounts.

## Higher lending

The Finance Houses Association has reported a substantial increase in lending for 1986 with new consumer advances up by 29 per cent to £6.5 billion. Demand for home improvement and property loans was buoyant, and consumer advances for new and used cars exceeded £2 billion for the first time.

## The gold opportunities

Is gold about to make a dramatic comeback? PETER GARTLAND urges caution among investors

World stock markets got the jitters this week. They all took seriously the threat of a trade war against Japan. The result, as our graph reveals, is a downturn on the equity markets of London, New York and Tokyo at the end of March following strong rises earlier in the month.

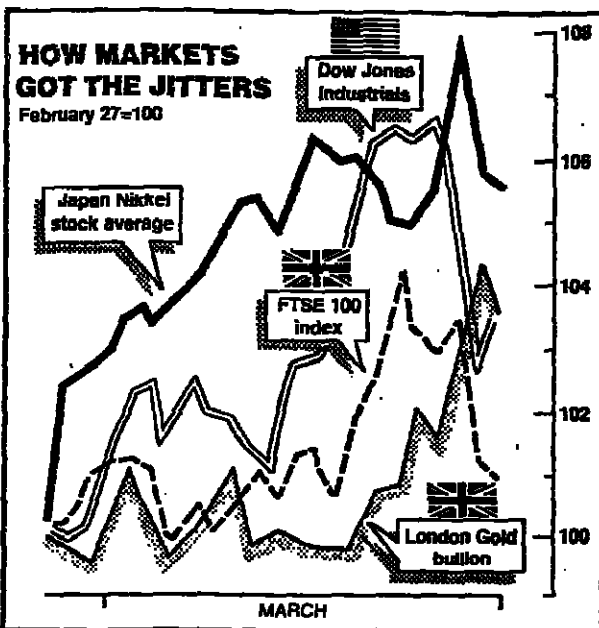
Stock market jitters coincided with the start of an interest rate decline for savers. National Savings dropped its interest rate on £2.6 billion of National Savings certificates from 8.7 per cent to 7.5.

Rates on guaranteed bonds from insurance companies have also fallen sharply, with some companies pulling out of the market. According to *Money Management's 7-Day Rate Update*, the best rates available on five-year guaranteed growth bonds are 8 per cent from Cannon and General Portfolio and 7.1 per cent from Premium Life. All net of standard rate tax.

Building societies will soon cut their own rates for savers in the light of the recent mortgage rates fall.

In such circumstances people inevitably start feeling nervous about mainstream equities and interest-bearing deposits. And, whenever people feel nervous about conventional investment media they turn to gold.

This time, the gold bugs can point not only to the shaky nature of mainstream investments, but also to the positive



ing 25 funds during March were invested wholly or partly in gold shares.

These funds also dominate the top of the one-year table, with Waverley Australasian Gold, Save & Prosper Exploration, Gartmore Gold, M&G Australasian & General and MIM Britannia Gold all notching up offer-to-bid gains in excess of 90 per cent over one year to April 1.

Willie McLucas, managing director of Waverley Asset Management, maintains the Australian gold sector is undergoing a re-rating by investors throughout the world. He is optimistic about the Australian dollar, which has declined only marginally against sterling since the start of the year. He also argues that the gold price is building itself a strong technical formation and that steady, if unspectacular, growth lies ahead.

At Gartmore, the fund manager Brian O'Neill is particularly bullish on gold and maintains that, with world stock markets suffering a sharp setback, investors looking to take profits should consider the opportunities in gold and commodity shares.

According to Mr O'Neill, unlike the run-up of six months ago, which was stimulated by Japanese buying of large quantities of gold to mint the Hirohito commemorative coin, this time we are seeing both retail and institutional demand from many corners.

"Given the overbought state of the equity markets, the row over international trade and rising inflation, we expect gold to gain strength not only against the weak US dollar, but across the board," he says.

But is not this the kind of hype you expect from unit trust groups? Peter Har-

Gorbachov. That combination of high inflation and political uncertainty is what really brings the gold bugs out to play.

Back in those days, and even into the 1980s, the Costa Rica-based sisters Pam and Mary Anne Aden enjoyed some success as accurate gold forecasters. Their luck ran out when they started predicting gold to pass \$4,000 an ounce.

But despite the difficulty gold has had in staying convincingly above \$400 an ounce in the past 12 months, some say it has reached the stage where investment portfolios should have some exposure to it.

Anne Whitby, managing director of investment analysts Chart Analysis, concedes that gold is unlikely to set the world alight. But her argument for having some money in gold rests on the uncertainty of mainstream equity markets. Even if the bull run is not over, there is some indication of markets beginning to change, she argues.

So the message is: Have a modest exposure to gold but don't put everything in just because of some fancy specialist unit trust price rises.

Dylan Evans of Target, who presides over a £37 million gold unit trust, puts the present situation in perspective: "It would need only a fraction of global fixed-interest funds to move into gold to absorb the entire 1975-85 bullion surplus." He predicts a modest but healthy price rise to \$450 an ounce by the end of this year.

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\*Offer to offer from launch: 1.12.79, 4.11.83, 1.4.86, 1.1.87 respectively to 1.4.87  
\*Source: OPAL IDC



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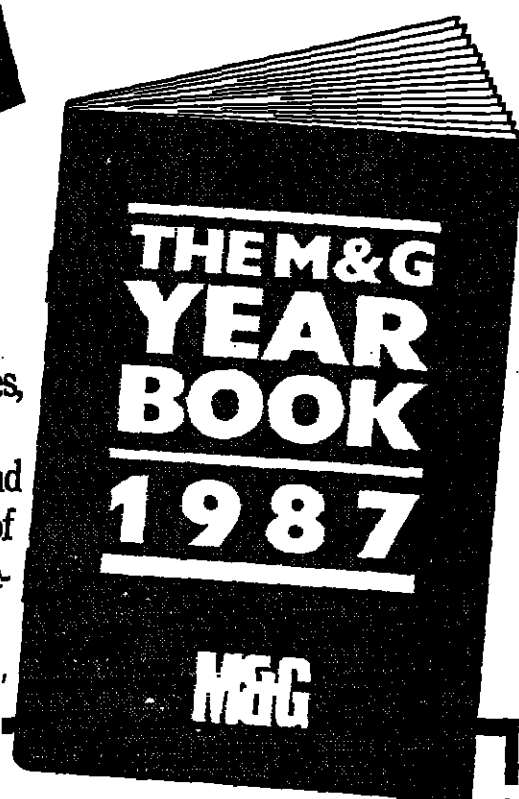
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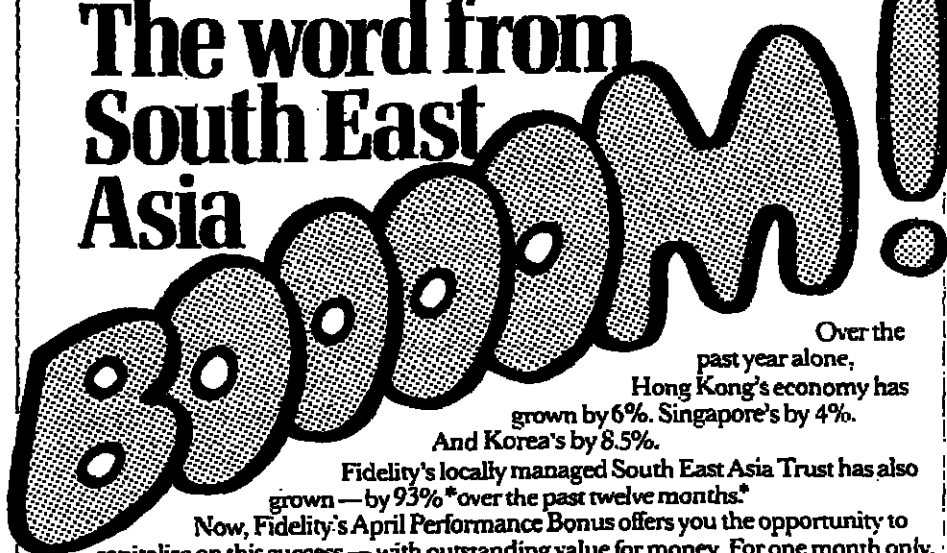
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MAKING MONEY MAKE MONEY



## High hopes for lower fares



On the way from Heathrow to Europe: these passengers would pay far less for a comparable flight in the United States

Even a passing reference to the cost of European air travel is guaranteed to ruffle a few feathers. AMANDA PARDOE explains why it is so expensive

Thanks to numerous comparative studies in newspapers and magazines, most consumers are now only too well aware that when compared with air travel in the United States, in terms of peace or cents per mile, Europe is depressingly expensive.

Now, it seems the prayers of both the British traveller and the airlines may soon be answered, at least in part.

At a meeting of the European Commission at the end of March the European Council was given until June 30 to reach an agreement on liberalization, the issue at the heart of the matter. And Michael Spicer, the British minister responsible for aviation, believes such pressure can only improve the prospects of a decision being made at the Special Aviation Council scheduled for June 9.

Liberalization is the term used to describe the removal of the numerous restrictions that prevent the airlines from

competing with one another.

Under the present system, every one of the European governments has its own regulatory body — in Britain it is the Civil Aviation Authority. And, not surprisingly, every one of these bodies aims to satisfy its own country's needs. This country, however, presents something of a special case.

According to Norman Lornie, British Airways' parliamentary affairs officer, the central European countries cannot see the need for tourist flights.

This is because the attitude of the continental Europeans

## Undue competition is prevented

to air travel is different from ours — they automatically look to the car as the means of getting them to the ski slopes or the sun, whereas we are forced to choose whether to travel by air or sea because we live on an island.

Another important difference is that here we have numerous airlines, whereas air travel in most other European countries is dominated by the state-controlled airlines. And, to protect the national airline, every regulatory body sets out

to prevent any undue competition.

This protective attitude applies not only to the price of tickets, but also to how many passengers are carried and how often. For example, if a British airline sought permission from the Italian regulatory body to fly from Birmingham to Milan, and the Italian airline Alitalia had no desire to match this with a flight from Milan to Birmingham, the request would probably be granted, but on condition that an existing British flight, say, London to Rome was discontinued.

Such inflexibility means that at the end of the day the passenger loses out. But, for some European countries, and in particular the UK and The Netherlands, these restrictions also mean their airlines are unable to fill their planes by providing the low-priced range of flights for the tourist market that they would like to offer.

These countries have already started to reach bilateral agreements, but West Germany, France, Italy and Greece have been dragging their feet.

Nevertheless, a start has been made, and Mr Lornie hopes the June meeting will lead to greater freedom. "It's no use scratching at the surface by offering a cheap flight on the first wet Tuesday in February. There's a massive market out there and there's room for us all to take advantage of it," he says.

He maintains the potential demand for European air travel is substantial throughout the year. Since introducing a cheap weekend return flight to Amsterdam two years ago, for example, British Airways has seen a marked increase in demand.

Mr Lornie would like to see this repeated throughout Europe, and he hopes that before long British tourists will find it just as economical to fly to the South of France and hire a car on arrival as to use a ferry and drive down.

Whatever is decided in June, it is unlikely that the situation will change overnight. But it seems probable that within the next two or three years passengers will be

able to choose from a wider range of weekend flights to European destinations at more competitive prices. With any luck, these will be followed by better midweek deals.

Certainly, the need for liberalization is being widely preached over here — apart from the airlines and the CAA, the Consumers' Association is supporting Lord Bethell, who published a Private Member's Bill on March 24 stressing the need for competition, and proposing that the Office of Fair Trading should be empowered to enforce UK and

## What protection if seller goes bust?

EEC competition rules on all air transport services.

Until a more liberal approach is widely adopted, keenly priced flights can be obtained from bucket shops.

In fact, most people probably think that this is the only way to buy a cheap ticket. But Mr Lornie maintains: "No body ever got out of a bucket shop a fare that they couldn't have got out of a large travel agent or the likes of British Airways."

If you are using this second route, reasonably priced flights are currently available, although you may have to book in advance or buy your ticket at the last minute.

One point to bear in mind when purchasing a cheap ticket is whether you will have any protection if the seller goes bust.

If you are buying from an ABTA (Association of British Travel Agents) member or a company with an Air Travel Organisers Licence, you will be all right. Similarly, purchases with a credit card may be protected. Otherwise, your cheap deal could end up an expensive loss.

## An annual shock from the council

## RATES

This week home-owners all over the country will have received their rate demand for the coming financial year.

And depending on where you live, the size of the bill could come as either a shock or a pleasant surprise.

The rateable value of a property is set by the local council and is based on its size, amenities and location.

Your annual rates bill is then calculated by multiplying the rateable value by the rate per pound set by your local authority for the year.

To give some indication of the changes this year, anyone living in the London Borough of Ealing will have to pay a staggering 64.7 per cent more than last year — the rate per pound is now 234p.

Next door, the inhabitants of Hammersmith and Fulham will have received demands based on 219.87p, representing a huge rise of 49.6 per cent.

In contrast to these hefty increases, rate-capping in Newham, east London, means a fall of 10.7 per cent in the rate per pound charged — instead of last year's 274.80p, residents will pay 245.41p.

Although the changes are less dramatic outside London, some authorities have announced significant increases.

Northamptonshire, for example, managed to keep the rates down last year by drawing on its credit balances, but it has not been able to afford to repeat this. As a result, it has implemented a 15.6 per cent rise.

In Lancashire, on the other hand, a more modest increase of 7.3 per cent has been announced.

One point to remember, wherever you live, and regardless of the change in your rates bill, is that you are entitled by law to pay this in instalments spread over 10 months without being charged any interest.

This means that anyone who settles up earlier is losing interest, and this could have been earned by investing the money.

To pay by instalment, all you need to do is set up a standing order with the bank.

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## GO FOR GOLD

With many of the major international stockmarkets showing signs of nervousness after their recent rapid and substantial rises, more and more investors are turning to gold, one of the most dependable and durable investments in the world, as a hedge against uncertainty.

And one of the easiest ways to benefit from an increasing gold price is to invest in the top-performing award-winning MIM Britannia Gold Trust.

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below, or call our unit trust dealers on 01-638 0478/9. The minimum investment is only £500.

For your guidance, the offer price of accumulation units as at 31st March 1987 was 94.3p and the estimated gross yield was 0.09% p.a.

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Acknowledgement will be sent and certificates issued within 30 days. Unit prices and yields are published daily in leading national newspapers. Units can be sold back to the managers at not less than the current bid price calculated to a formula approved by the Department of Trade and Industry. An initial management charge of 5.25% on the assets is included in the price of units and a service charge at an annual rate of 1% (+ VAT) of the value of the Trust is deducted from the Trust's gross income, although the Trust Deed allows a maximum annual charge of 2% (+ VAT). The Trust Deed permits investment in traded options and in secondary markets within the guidelines laid down by the Department of Trade and Industry. The Trust's distribution dates are 15th September and 15th January respectively. Income from Accumulation Units is invested net of the basic rate of income tax to increase the unit value. Income Units distribute their income either to the holder's registered address or by mandate direct to a bank account. Remuneration is payable to qualified intermediaries and rates are available on request. Trustee: National Westminster Bank PLC. Auditors: Arthur Young. Manager: MIM Britannia Unit Trust Managers Limited. Registered Office: 11 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4YR. Telephone: 01-588 2777. Registered in England No. 898166. Member of the Unit Trust Association.

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## FAMILY MONEY/3

## The shares boom that was just too good to last

### UNIT TRUSTS

Suddenly, out of a clear blue sky... Of course, it was all too good to last. Most of the major stock markets were happily chalking up new all-time highs and vying with one another to push through various psychological barriers, when along came March 30.

In the space of 24 hours the bull game had changed completely and all those new investors who have been lured into the stock market during the past year or two got their first taste of how quickly market sentiment can go into reverse.

When the professional markets are looking for a reason to take profits and run, anything can trigger off the move.

Several years ago it was Joe Granville's gloom and doom predictions that set off a wave of selling. This time the market seized on the trade confrontation between the United States and Japan and the depressed state of the dollar.

Once begun, however, the downward momentum was self-generating and the end results were the Dow Jones's third largest one-day fall, the second largest one-day fall in Tokyo, and the biggest daily decline in index terms the UK had ever seen.

The Japanese, who had effectively been underpinning several foreign markets with their buying activities, suddenly became heavy sellers, and those markets, notably the United States, as well as their own, went into a nosedive.

Semi-conductor and computer stocks, the subject of the latest trade wranglings, felt the full force of this selling wave, but the ramifications were much more broadly spread. What would have been a bumper month for the unit trust industry turned, there-

fore, into something rather more mundane. Despite the dramatic end to March, most stock market indices still finished at higher levels than they had started the month, so overall, gains in the industry still outnumbered losses.

Not so in the US sector, however, where only 19 out of 116 funds made any advance, and those holding shares in semi-conductor-related and computer-related companies were particularly hard hit.

UK funds came through in rather better shape, with 120 out of 145 UK growth funds, for example, still managing to beat the FT All-Share's 1.7 per cent gain.

But Europe, a recent favourite with many investors, fared less well, with the West Ger-

man market depressed even before the end-month turmoil. The top fund in the European sector put on only 4.4 per cent but almost half lost money.

Gold shares were the one bright spot in March, benefitting those unit trusts in both the commodity and energy and Australian sectors exposed to the metal.

Chief among these in the former category were M&G's Gold & General and Gartmore's Gold Share trusts, which both gained an impressive 34.7 per cent. In the latter sector, Waverley's Australian Gold in the latter sector put on 20.7 per cent.

## Gazumpers back in business

■ Gazumping is back with a vengeance, according to a report in the latest issue of *Which?*, the magazine published by the Consumers Association.

Gazumping is the practice of raising the price of a house after agreeing a price verbally with an intending buyer. A survey of *Which?* readers found nearly one in three buyers had purchases that fell through after an offer had been accepted, and gazumping was given as a major cause.

Half the sellers surveyed thought estate agents were not good value for money. The main reasons for complaints were that estate agents lost interest in the sale and did not promote the property enough. Buyers complained of poor communication with the estate agent, lack of information and incorrect or untruthful.

One in four buyers thought surveys were not good value for money. The main reasons were that they were expensive, failed to mention major or obvious faults and their reports were too short and lacked detail.

The survey also reveals that some solicitors refused to give estimates of the cost of conveyancing. One in six *Which?* readers were dissatisfied with the time conveyancing took, the information they received and access to their solicitor.

## Savers suffer the first blow

■ The first major blow in a new round of interest rate reductions for savers was struck this week by the Department for National Savings.

NS reduced the General Extension Rate on a total of 15 issues of National Savings Certificates stretching back to 1939 from 8.7 per cent to 7.5 per cent. The General Extension Rate is a tax-free rate of interest that holders of certain issues of National Savings Certificates can elect to continue receiving beyond the date when issues have completed their fixed period terms, usually five years.

The total amount of savings affected by the National Savings move is £2.5 billion. Although National Savings has yet to announce details of a new issue of Savings Certificates, following withdrawal of the 32nd issue on March 10, its reduction of the General Extension Rate is certain to be a major influence on the drop in building society interest rates for savers, which is expected to follow the recent fall in mortgage rates.

Britain's biggest building society, the Halifax, said that it regarded National Savings as a strong competitor and would be taking this move into account before announcing new savers' rates later this month.

Access has installed 1,450 cash machines to dispense pesetas in key Spanish tourist and business areas — in good time for Spain's bulging holiday season. The credit card company first announced plans to set up the cash dispensers late last year. The machines, all on Spanish bank premises, carry the Access logo, and the operating instructions that flash on to the screen are in English.

Access is expecting soon to place even more cash machines in Spain and eventually to offer the service throughout Europe. The company, however, is not saying how soon it will be able to expand outside Spain. The latest crop of statistics from the company also show that Access now has 10 million cardholders in Britain and there are 5.4 million outlets in 170 countries worldwide.

## WHICH UNIT TRUSTS Are Expected to Perform Best in the Year Ahead?

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■ Fidelity Investment Management is offering a 1 per cent discount on four of its unit trusts during April. The four funds, which each require a minimum investment of £500, are American, European, South East Asia and Special Situations. Fidelity operates a free-of-charge telephone advice service on 0800-414161 between 9am and 5pm Mondays to Fridays and 9am to 5pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

### TSB offer

■ The Trustee Savings Bank has launched its Homebuyer Plan, a unit-linked endowment designed to repay a mortgage at the end of the payment term. The plan is linked to the Homebuyer's Managed Fund, which will be invested in a range of low-risk to medium-risk investments.

Under the plan there is a low-start option, whereby the monthly contributions start at a reduced rate and rise by a third every year until reaching a plateau in the fourth year.

Monthly contributions are invested in the fund after a given period, ranging from four to 24 months, and the percentage allocated to units varies from 70 per cent to 100 per cent, depending on the age of the borrower and the terms of the mortgage. There is a 5 per cent initial charge for the units and a 1 per cent annual management fee.

### New opportunity

■ Merrill Lynch is offering UK residents the opportunity to invest for the first time in unit investment trusts.

In common with unit trusts, these funds are made up of a pool of investments. Unlike unit trusts, they are not actively managed, and so the securities within the fund remain relatively static. Another difference is that as a closed fund, a unit investment trust is limited in size from the outset.

Initially, Merrill Lynch is offering units in two funds — US GNMA (Ginnie Mae) and US Treasury Notes, both through its Bermuda-based investment company, Group One Ltd. The units are listed on the London Stock Exchange.

The Ginnie Mae Fund, which is expected to have wider appeal, will be invested in a portfolio of retail mortgages in the United States that are guaranteed by the US government agency, the Government National Mortgage Association. Investors in the fund will receive monthly income made up of interest distributions and capital repayments. At present, the yield is estimated to be 9 per cent. The minimum investment in the fund is US\$1,000, or approximately £625.

Norman Schweg, managing director of Merrill Lynch's unit investment trust division, intends to extend the range of funds on offer. Units in a Standard and Poors 500 Stock Index should be available shortly.

■ The National Consumer Council has come out strongly in favour of polarization — the strict separation of selling and advice in financial products. The chairman Michael Montague has written to the Trade Secretary Paul Channon supporting the Securities and Investments Board's proposals.

In his letter to the minister, Mr Montague says the SIB has not provided adequate controls over cold calling or adequate disclosure of information about charges and commissions. "This leaves polarization as the only effective means of ensuring that potential investors know whether they are buying an investment or savings product from a salesman for a company's products or from someone who is able to help them survey the market and make an informed choice," he says.

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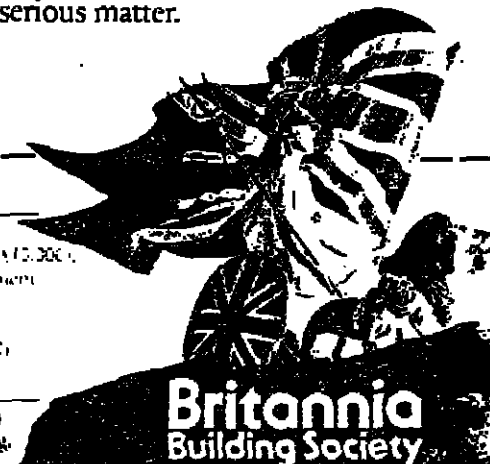
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### UNIT TRUST PERFORMANCE

Value of £100 as at April 1, 1987

| THE BEST                     |                              |  |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| One Year                     | Three Years                  |  |
| Waverley Aust Gold 238.2     | FS Balanced Growth 526.4     |  |
| S&P Exploration 210.5        | TR Special Opps 339.9        |  |
| MIM Britannia Gold 198.0     | Arkwright 311.8              |  |
| M&G Aust & General 195.8     | TR Smaller Companies 303.8   |  |
| Gartmore Gold Share 194.5    | Murray Europe 292.3          |  |
| Abbey Commodity & Engr 191.6 | Baring First Europe 291.2    |  |
| Schroder Gold 191.5          | County Japan Growth 290.0    |  |
| Sentinel Euro Income 191.3   | Vanguard Special Sits 288.0  |  |
| Sun Life Far East Gwth 188.9 | Brown Shipley Recovery 284.4 |  |
| Fidelity Sth East Asia 188.3 | Mercury European Gwth 278.9  |  |
| Average 123.2                | Average 174.8                |  |

| THE WORST                     |                                |  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| One Year                      | Three Years                    |  |
| GT US & General 94.1          | Sentinel American Tech 98.6    |  |
| Proflite North American 93.8  | County Energy 97.2             |  |
| Gartmore Int Fixed Int 93.1   | Target Commodity 96.8          |  |
| Abbey Gilt & Fixed Int 92.9   | MIM Brit World Tech 96.7       |  |
| Framlington American Gen 92.7 | Aetna Aust Securities 93.9     |  |
| Gartmore American 92.4        | Schroder Sing & Malaysia 93.0  |  |
| Brown Shipley Tech 92.4       | SI Smaller Companies 90.0      |  |
| MIM Brit Int Laxure 90.0      | Brown Shipley Tech 89.9        |  |
| Henderson American Rec 89.3   | Henderson Sing & Malaysia 76.4 |  |
| LAS North American Ety 83.8   | MIM Brit Int Energy 69.6       |  |

Offer to bid basis

Net income reinvested

Source: Planned Savings

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# FRAMLINGTON

## Unit Trust Group of 1987

FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS in 1969, when we started our Capital Trust, Framlington has expanded steadily. We now run unit trusts worth over £500 million for more than 90,000 unitholders. If the investment trusts, pension funds, charities and private portfolios we run are included, our total funds under management exceed £1.5 billion.

Our success, like the success of any unit trust group, depends on being good at three distinct things: investment management, administration, and marketing.

**Investment management** This is pre-eminent. Every investor wants performance above all else. Our record speaks for itself. Based on the performance of our funds over a five year period, we have been made Management Group of the Year 1987 by *What Investment* magazine.

We were also their Group of the Year in 1984, won the BBC *Money Box* unit trust managers competition in 1983, 1981 and 1979, were *Observer* Unit Trust Managers of the Year in 1982 and 1981, *Sunday Telegraph* Unit Trust Group of 1982 and (when only a fortunate few had invested with us), *Observer* Small Unit Trust Managers of the Year in 1977 and 1978.

The two main factors in this success continue to be a leaning towards smaller companies; and an obsession with long term growth.

**Administration** We have always made a special effort to operate efficiently and to give good value for money. For example, our contract notes go out immediately. Our cheques for repurchases go out certainly within 7 days, usually within 2 or 3.

We have a highly effective monthly savings plan and our share exchange system is a model of simplicity. Our charges have always been below average: the annual charge is never more than 1.00 per cent per annum (+VAT) and on most of our U.K. invested funds it is just 0.75 per cent (+VAT).

**Marketing** To achieve the best possible performance a fund manager always prefers to have a steady flow of new money into the fund. Successful marketing thus matters not only to us as a management company, but also to unitholders, who will in the long run benefit from the superior performance it should bring in its wake.

To achieve this we look for a balance between sales of units through advertisements like this one, through independent intermediaries, and through insurance companies using our units as backing for insurance policies. This combination works well: in the last ten years our unit trusts under management have increased from under £10 million to over £500 million.

## CAPITAL TRUST

### A VERY SOUND UK INVESTMENT

Framlington Capital Trust has long had a claim to be one of the best unit trusts ever launched: its consistent performance, its low charges and the way it has always been run combine to produce a very good unit trust indeed.

Capital Trust was formed in January 1969 to invest for a combination of capital growth and modest income mainly through smaller British companies. It has always been managed by Bill Struttford, now Framlington's Chairman.

Between January 1969 and 1st April 1987 the price of units rose 17.2 times, compared with 5.5 times for the FT All-Share Index.

#### BEST U.K. GROWTH TRUST

Over ten years to 1st March it had the best performance of any U.K. growth trust. With net income reinvested, an investment of £1,000 on 1st March 1977 would have been worth £12,860 ten years later. By contrast, £1,000 in the FT All-Share Index would have grown to £4,732 (Source: *Money Management*).

The trust also produced a scintillating performance for regular savers. £20 per month over ten years would have turned into £10,632, for an outlay of £2,400. Over 15 years £20 per month would have produced £35,186 for an outlay of £3,600. (Source: *Planned Savings*).

Capital Trust's performance has been achieved in a particularly calm way by picking out British companies with good prospects of growth and staying with them. The list of shares is long (there are currently 217), and the turnover is low (this keeps the dealing costs low, which helps performance).

Investors are reminded that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

#### HOW TO INVEST

You can buy units by completing the form below and sending it to us with your cheque. Units are allocated at the price ruling when

we receive your order and rounded up in your favour to the nearest whole unit. The minimum investment for a lump sum is £500. There is a discount of 1 per cent for investments of £10,000 or more, or of 2 per cent if you invest over £50,000.

You can choose either income units (with distributions twice each year) or accumulation units (in which net income is reinvested).

On 1st April 1987 the price of income units was 285.9p (accumulation units, 349.6p). The estimated gross yield was 1.75 per cent.

#### MONTHLY SAVINGS

For the monthly savings plan, the minimum is £20 per month, with a discount of 1 per cent for contributions of £100 per month or more. Accumulation units are used and are allocated at the price ruling on the 5th of each month. To start your plan, complete the application and send it with your cheque for the first contribution. Subsequent contributions are by the direct debit mandate which we shall send to you for your signature.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

Framlington Capital Trust is an authorised unit trust constituted by Trust Deed. The Trustee is Lloyds Bank Plc. The Managers are Framlington Unit Management Limited, 3 London Wall Buildings, London EC2M 5NQ. Telephone 01-628 5181.

Applications will be acknowledged. Certificates for lump-sum investments will be sent by the Registrars, Lloyds Bank Plc, normally within 6 weeks.

Prices are published daily in *The Times*, *Daily Telegraph* and *Financial Times*. The annual charge is ¾ per cent (+VAT) of the value of the fund. The Trust Deed includes powers to increase this to a maximum of 1 per cent if necessary. The initial charge (included in the offer price) is 5 per cent.

When units are sold back to the managers payment is normally made within 7 days of receipt of the renounced certificate. Savings plans can be cashed in at any time.

Commission is paid to qualified intermediaries: rates are available on request. Distributions on income units are paid net of basic rate tax on May 15th and November 15th to unitholders on the register two months previously. A report is sent at the time of distribution. Savings plan statements are sent every six months.

Registered in England No. 895241. Member of the Unit Trust Association. This offer is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

### OTHER FRAMLINGTON SERVICES

Capital Trust is only one of 13 Framlington unit trusts. Details of the whole range are given in the *Framlington Unit Trust Guide*. The *Guide* also includes comparative performance tables, information on taxation, details of our share exchange scheme, and general information on all aspects of investing in our unit trusts. For a free copy, simply return the coupon with your name and address.

**PERSONAL EQUITY PLANS** If you have not yet taken out your Personal Equity Plan for 1987 you may be interested in Framlington PEP 87. This is a unit trust specially created as a PEP, with a fixed subscription of £420, the Government limit for a PEP entirely invested in a unit trust. PEP 87 has got off to a flying start: it was launched on 13th February with a unit price of 50p;

by 1st April the offer price had risen 14.4 per cent to 57.2p.

#### CHILDREN

Our leaflet *Investing for Children* covers lump sum investment, savings plans, covenants, school fees, planning and taxation.

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I enclose my cheque payable to Framlington Unit Management Limited. I am over 18. For accumulation units in which income is reinvested, tick here ☐

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(Joint applicants should all sign and give details separately.)

Please send me further information as follows:

Framlington Unit Trust Guide ☐

Framlington PEP 87 ☐

Framlington Personal Pensions ☐

Investing for Children ☐

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) \_\_\_\_\_

Full first name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

#### MONTHLY SAVINGS

I wish to start a Monthly Savings Plan for  in Framlington Capital Trust (minimum £20).

I enclose my cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ for my first contribution (this can be for a larger amount than your monthly payment). I am over 18.

### FAMILY MONEY/4

## New rules that threaten your retirement cash



If you are much over the age of 40 and you are thinking of changing your job, you might want to think again. The pensions industry is complaining that some of the new rules announced in the Budget could seriously damage your pension prospects, although most of the proposals are welcomed.

The Chancellor's important proposals have introduced some brand new penalties for early leavers, both in terms of the maximum pension they can receive and also their entitlement to a tax-free lump sum on retirement.

So what is all the fuss really about and what, if anything, can be done about it? Since the Budget, a few extra titbits have emerged, although some of the crucial detail is still obscure. Of course, the proposals are open to amendment while the Finance Bill works its way through Parliament.

The first important change affects the amount of pension that an employer can provide someone who joined late in his career.

The basic Inland Revenue rule for occupational pension schemes is that employers can provide a retirement income of up to a sixtieth of final

remuneration for every year of an employee's service. The maximum employment is, therefore, normally about 40 years and so 40 sixtieths, or two-thirds, of final remuneration is usually the maximum pension that can be taken.

However, the Revenue does recognize that many employees, especially early on in their careers, will have been in jobs with poor pension schemes, no pension schemes, or simply arrangements that provide a very bad deal for early leavers. So an accelerated level of pension build-up is permitted and this allows late-comers to catch up towards the end of their careers.

Until Budget day, a full two-thirds pension could be provided to an employee, even though he was with the company for only the last 10 years of his working life before retirement. Service of less than 10 years merited less pension entitlement on a special sliding scale.

Now, for new pension schemes and new members of existing pension schemes after Budget day, the maximum accelerated accrual of pension rights is restricted to two sixtieths for every year of service. In other words, you will have to be in your employment for a minimum of 20 years before you can qualify for the full two-thirds pension.

For example, Jim is thinking of moving to a new job. The pay will be roughly the same as he is getting now, but the job looks more interesting. In his line of work, the pay rises over the years tend to be in the region of 10 to 15 per cent per year. So his final salary, on which his pension will be based, is bound to be substantially more than his current level of remuneration. Unfortunately, the pension arrangements, especially following the Budget, look distinctly less attractive.

If Jim stays with his present employer, he will get a pension of two-thirds of his final pay. However, if he moves, his old employer will give him a paid-up pension of just one sixtieth for every year of service, which in his case is 10 years. Most of this pension will be frozen and only a small part of it will be revalued at a maximum of 5 per cent per year — far less than his pension benefits if he had stayed.

As a result, he will face a very substantial reduction in his retirement income if he

makes a move. Now he cannot afford to move unless his pay is very substantially boosted.

The other reason that people such as Jim would be reluctant to move is the new restriction on the tax-free lump sum for new pension schemes and new members. In his present job, with 20 years' service, he will have a lump sum of one and a half times his final salary. If he moves, he can take much less of his pension benefits as tax-free capital.

Even under the old rules he would have been restricted because he would have had less than 20 years' service. With 10 years' service and before deducting any other pension lump sum entitlements, he could have a lump sum of only 45 per cent of the final salary.

But the Budget has introduced further restrictions. There is the widely publicized

#### People in late 40s could be losers

ceiling of £150,000 on all tax-free lump sum benefits — a figure that is probably unlikely to rise in the future. With inflation and increasing earnings, many senior managers could expect to retire on salaries of more than £100,000.

But the chances of even reaching this ceiling have rather diminished. This is partly because lump sums that have accrued with previous employers or under self-employed schemes are almost certain to be deducted from the overall entitlement.

In addition, the lump sum can exceed three eightieths of final salary for every year of service only if the employee has a pension of more than

one sixtieth for every year of service.

One clear loser is likely to be the pension mortgage based on occupational schemes, particularly for larger loans and for people who are in their late 40s.

Furthermore, all additional voluntary contributions after the Budget can fund for retirement income only — not lump sums. Apparently, according to one consulting actuary, both old and new schemes and members are affected. So the AVC mortgage position looks decidedly uncertain for everybody.

All in all then, the price tag on senior executives moving from one job to another has just gone up very sharply indeed. The corollary is that the cost of dismissing an executive prematurely may also have increased considerably.

Incidentally, if you started an occupational pension scheme such as an executive pension plan or a small self-administered scheme just before the Budget and you are congratulating yourself on your good luck, be prepared for a shock.

According to Allied Dunbar, the Revenue is now taking the view that the new rules apply to all occupational schemes which are approved after March 17, 1987. So a lot of pre-Budget pension schemes will be caught.

It is certainly arguable that the old style of pension scheme provides tax reliefs that are too generous, but by basing the new restrictions largely on length of service with the last employer before retirement, the Chancellor has fortuitously created a new early-leaver problem.

Danby Bloch and Raymond Godfrey

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## FAMILY MONEY/5

## The new option that keeps the employees happy

In the event of a take-over, employees of the target company who have existing share options will now be able to exchange them for options over shares in the acquiring company.

This follows last month's Budget, and the basis will be such that employees will be no better or worse off than if the take-over had not happened.

The change is clearly good news for employees. Not only will they not lose out, but, by exchanging their options, they will also have a commitment to the new parent company.

Share option schemes can vary in scope from a straight-forward incentive to a means of putting control of a company in the hands of its staff.

The principle, however, is the same. The employee buys an option, which in turn confers the right to buy shares, some time in the future, at a specified price.

The advantage to the employee is that he can acquire shares in his own company at a known cost. The employer, meanwhile, can effectively give his staff a share in their own productivity, as both encouragement and reward.

Until quite recently, however, share option schemes were bound by lengthy regulations designed to prevent tax avoidance. The Budget change is the latest move to liberalize these, at least in part, so as to encourage more companies to introduce schemes.

A significant boost came in the 1984 Finance Act. This set out conditions by which a scheme could be approved by the Inland Revenue.

The chief advantages of approval are that any profits made from exercising an option will not be taxed until the shares are finally sold, and will then be treated as capital gains rather than income. This means at most tax of 30 per cent, instead of a possible 60

## Company rules may set a lower limit

per cent for a top-rate taxpayer. For the purpose of approval by the Revenue, the value of shares acquired through options is restricted to four times the individual's earnings in the previous year, or £100,000, whichever is greater. The company's own scheme rules, though, may set a lower limit than this.

The price at which shares can be bought must be stated at the time the option is granted. It need not be the current market price, but it should not be "manifestly"

less, which is generally interpreted as not more than 10 per cent below the market value.

The one time income tax can arise in an approved scheme is if the share price and the option price, taken together, are less than the market value of the shares. Tax will then be charged on the difference, at the time the option is granted. Another type of scheme which may be approved is one that is savings-related.

Schemes set up before 1984 came under legislation originally introduced in 1972, and are now generally referred to as unapproved. On these there are three main occasions when income tax may arise.

## Legislation intended to stop tax avoidance

Provided the option must be exercised within seven years, it will not be taxable until shares are actually bought.

At that time, tax will be charged on the difference between the cost of the shares to the employee, including the option price, and their market value. This is the same as for approved schemes.

Unapproved schemes differ in that income tax will also be charged on any appreciation in the value of the shares. The first reckoning comes at the seventh anniversary, or on the sale of the shares if this is earlier. If the shares are held for longer than seven years, there will be a further tax bill when they are eventually sold.

The legislation was designed to prevent tax avoidance, and in particular the use of share option schemes to give special benefits to employees that would fall outside the tax net. Where such practice would clearly be against the company's interests, it is possible to apply for tax exemption.

For example, if the majority of similar shares are held by non-employees, it would be too costly for the company to confer special benefits, as these would have to be given to all shareholders alike to be free of tax. This is called the "majority test".

The precise rules on exemptions are lengthy and complex, and have attracted numerous representations from companies urging change. Fortunately, the Budget brought good news in this area, in that the regulations are to be reviewed, in the hope of simplification.

Liz Walkington

## Share-owners' champion

"No investment manager is any use until he has lost some of his own money," says David Hopkinson, the recently retired chief executive of M&G, Britain's largest unit trust group. JOHN ROBERTS spoke to him

David Hopkinson once advanced the radical notion that every civil servant above a certain rank should be handed £20,000 and told to report back five years later on how he had managed it. "There could be no better financial training," he asserts. "It would give invaluable practical experience in dealing with situations in the real world."

Today an increasing number of civil servants are gaining analogous experience vicariously through dealings with merchant banks and stockbrokers on privatization issues.

Mr Hopkinson views that programme positively for other reasons, deeming its overall beneficial effect on the economy of far more consequence than whether the Government should have got an extra hundred million or two for British Airways.

And if, in promoting British Telecom, British Gas and other issues, "the Government has ramped the market in a way which would put a private individual in jail", he rates the spread of direct share ownership as justifying the effort.

Before Telecom, he points out, direct personal ownership had been in seemingly inexorable decline for 20 or more years.

"We have always taken the view that the weakening of the private investor was undesirable," he says. "Of course, as a unit trust group we are talking against our own book but before Big Bang the private investor made the market."

"Since then, in this lunatic market — well, not lunatic but irrational — I'm not sure. But the idea behind personal equity plans, portable pensions, and the other schemes is right. I believe in the capitalist system, and the more individuals who own shares the better."

Before Big Bang, David Hopkinson expressed grave misgivings. How has experience compared with his expectations?

"The markets are more liquid than I expected," he says, "especially in second- and third-line stocks, but some of my fundamental fears are still there. We wanted agent brokers (acting purely on behalf of clients, rather than sometimes actually buying from or selling to them from their own 'books'), and we find that now every partner or director or manager, or whatever else they call themselves — these days — has a commission target for every month, day or week. Sometimes it may be right to do nothing in the market."

"More and more shares are being seen as just bits of paper to change hands, without recognition of the shareholder's responsibility to take an interest in the management and become involved. We are worried about that more than I thought."

M&G has a reputation for taking more interest than most in the management of companies in which it invests, and Mr Hopkinson is scathingly critical of the insurance companies and pension funds for their passivity. M&G has also been unenthusiastic about very large take-overs.

Mr Hopkinson says: "Take-overs always seemed to us the very last resort in changing management."

The Hopkinson approach to investment management has been caricatured as requiring no knowledge of company accounts or price-earnings ratios. M&G does not eschew such elementary tools of investment analysis "but nevertheless, it's not entirely a caricature."

"When I hear someone talking about Beta factors (a

theoretical measure of investment risk) I reach for my gun," he says with a chuckle as, relighting his cigar yet again, he looks out from his office window over the Thames.

"The first essential is to know about management and how they're organized, how the chairman and chief executive think and the sort of people they are. We meet a lot of industrialists and have someone to lunch every day to meet the directors."

M&G's occasional decisions to sell shares in companies including in status symbols have become a City legend. Mr Hopkinson is unapologetic. "The skill of investment is in assessing people, especially if they are going to be in charge of a company which is undergoing management change."

## 'You will always make mistakes'

He freely admits that personal chemistry can make that a somewhat subjective exercise: "I personally am pretty anti people who talk too much — which is probably rich [chuckle] — and makes it sound all too easy."

He remains relaxed about such personal foibles and predilections entering into the equation. "You will always make mistakes. The art of investment is being right three times out of five and if you hit four out of five you're doing extraordinarily well, so you must not be frightened of making mistakes."

The same attitude imbues the management style he has inculcated into M&G, whose investment performance has been consistently good. That performance has enabled it to overtake Save & Prosper as the UK's largest unit trust group. Others have failed to resolve the management dilemma of large groups. As one extreme their investment decision-making has become bureaucratic and cumbersome. At the other, under-supervised fund managers have turned in volatile results.

"Managers have their policies and objectives laid down yearly with updates if circumstances change significantly," Mr Hopkinson explains. "Otherwise, they are left to get on with it. We have an exchange of views at a morning meeting but no commitments, no huge strategies."

"We've always tried to keep this place from expanding too fast. The principal reason is that you can take one or possibly two investment managers on in a year and mould them into the ethos. You can't take a whole slug of people in without undermining the culture."

But having eschewed diversification into other financial services, might M&G run out of growth, passing the optimum size for an investment management company?

Mr Hopkinson says: "Since 1979 our policy has been to grow at 10 per cent compound (and actually it's been at 25 per cent) because I don't think there is an optimum size, except that limited by the maintenance of standards in investment and customer service."

"This is still run as a small business. Everyone talks to everyone else with all the investment people out here on the same floor, and across there the marketing people, the administration and even the accounts."

That colours M&G's attitude towards the freedom it

will have soon to sell units across the Common Market. "We should only expand as fast as an investment management company can and we have turned down pension fund clients because we are already fully extended."

Mr Hopkinson began his working life with 11 years as a clerk of the House of Commons. How has that political experience coloured his judgment in the City? "It was a marvellous training because you become very politically sensitive to the results of



Hopkinson: 'irrational market'

certain courses of action and how they are likely to be interpreted, particularly in the media.

"You have only got to spend time as I did watching Churchill, Eden, Macmillan, Wilson, to learn quite a lot from their reactions and sensitivities."

"If you make a mistake — and we all do — and say, 'We made a mistake', you've answered the problem. I remember there was a Minister of Works in the Atlee Government who stood up and said, 'We've made a monumental muck-up of this'. He brought the house down and that was the end of the matter."

Today, he agreed, politicians tend neither to apologize nor explain. "One of the changes which makes me not regret retiring is that 15 or 20 years ago the best interpretation was put on what people said and did. Now it's the worst. We were probably naive before but I think the pendulum has gone too far the other way."

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To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Walton Street, AYLESBURY, Bucks., HP21 7BR. I'd welcome further details on The Equitable's unit-linked retirement plans. (I am self-employed) (I am an employee not in a company pension scheme) (I want to top up benefits from my company's pension scheme). (UK residents only)

Name (Mr/Ms/Miss) \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: (Office) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

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**The Equitable Life**

— You gain because we're different. —

## APRIL PERFORMANCE BONUS

## What's up in Europe in 1987?

NOW UP 115%\* SINCE LAUNCH

## Your April Performance Bonus.

If you're thinking of investing in April, your first choice must be Fidelity — both for investment performance and value for money.

In the twelve months to March 1st this year, Fidelity is the No 1 in Planned Savings' Group Weighted Performance figures.

And now you can capitalise on Fidelity's top performance with this investment opportunity and benefit from the special 1% April bonus.

A bonus offer that could substantially enhance your investment returns from Fidelity.

## Buy your units by 'phone now.

To take full advantage of your 1% Performance Bonus, call our investment advisers now and buy your units by 'phone today and avoid any postal delays.

The lines are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. during the week.

Alternatively, contact your professional adviser or return the coupon together with your cheque direct to Fidelity.

Remember, the price of units and income from them can go down as well as up.

Today, Europe contains some of the most attractive of the world's markets. And what better way can you think of entering Europe than by investing with Fidelity and in the top performing European Trust for 1986.

Launched in November 1985 and created for long term capital growth, Fidelity European Trust continues to go from strength to strength. In just 17 months the Trust's offer price has risen by 115%\*.

## Consolidation — and the time to invest.

Throughout 1986 Europe's markets performed strongly.

However, the first quarter of this year has shown some necessary consolidation — often a characteristic of markets set for even greater gains.

This, together with strong consumer demand, stable oil prices, lower inflation and growing corporate confidence, all signal further positive growth prospects for Europe in 1987.

## More focused investment.

Much of Fidelity's European success is due to a disciplined investment strategy.

In the search for quality undervalued shares, we concentrate on highly focused stock picking. We avoid locking ourselves into particular countries or market sectors, so our widely diversified portfolio is far less vulnerable to any local downside market pressures.

Fidelity is one of the largest international groups investing in Europe. Our investment decisions are supported by over 17 years' experience in these markets backed by extensive research resources.

\*Offer to offer from launch 4.11.85 to 1.4.87

For example, last year alone we visited over 300 different companies — field work that ensured our research pin-pointed the better investment opportunities.

Fidelity's European success — proof that the closer you look, the greater the rewards.

Call free Fidelity 0800 414161

To: Fidelity Investment Services Limited, PO Box 80, River Walk, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 1DW.

I wish to invest £\_\_\_\_\_ in Fidelity European Trust at the offer price ruling on receipt of my application and benefit from the special 1% bonus. This offer closes 30th April 1987. I enclose my cheque made payable to Fidelity Investment Services Limited. Minimum investment £500.

(tick relevant boxes) Surname Mr/Ms/Miss \_\_\_\_\_

First Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(if more than one applicant all must sign)

Fidelity

**Fidelity**  
MAKING MONEY MAKE MONEY

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL INVESTORS

A contract note for your application, together with a brochure, will normally be sent within 5 days. Unit certificates will normally be sent within 10 working days of receipt of settlement. The current estimated gross yield for Fidelity European Trust is 10.5% per annum. Units may be sold on any day at the bid price ruling. You will receive a cheque within 7 working days of our receiving your request to cash. The Trust will pay distributions on 17th November each year and on 15th October. An annual charge of 0.5% is included in the offer price of units out of which the Managers will pay remuneration to qualified intermediaries. Rates are available upon request. The Trust pays an annual charge to the Standard & Poor's of income or capital (where there is sufficient income) of 1% plus VAT of the value of the fund. Check our investment prices and yields daily in the Financial Times, Daily Telegraph, or on Press 1/41/40. Trustees: Goodwin Bank PLC, Managers: Fidelity Investment Services Limited, Registered Office: River Walk, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 1DW. Registered Company Number: 2016553. The Trust is a wider-range Trustee security authorised by the Department of Trade and Industry. Member of the Unit Trust Association. Offer not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

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Most parents now realise that the most efficient way of paying for public school education is with a school fees plan.

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It is also fully recommended by the national Independent School Information Service.

For full details, fill in the coupon below or contact us direct on 0296 26226 today.

To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Walton Street, AYLESBURY, Bucks HP21 7BR. I'd welcome further details on your school fee plans, financing them by: ☐ A capital sum; ☐ Spreading the cost over a period.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss)

(UK residents only)

Address

Postcode

Tel: (Office)

Date of Birth

Tel: (Home)



BKW7A

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## The societies that serve

More and more building societies are providing cheque books and cheque cards. CONAL GREGORY looks at what is on offer

In the wake of the Building Societies Act, an increasing number of societies are expanding their services to offer as full a financial package as possible. Probably the most useful additional service is the personal cheque facility.

For many years societies would prepare a cheque for a third party for a member who presented his pass book and some would post this free or make the payment on the member's behalf by credit transfer, sending gas, electricity and telephone bills, for example.

The next step up has been for societies to accept salary payments and in return organize standing orders and

Only a £1 needed to start an account

direct debits but falling short of issuing personal cheque books.

Anglia has this helpful policy, backed up by the issue of the Anglia card permitting up to £250 to be withdrawn daily through a cash dispenser. It pays 6 per cent interest on funds in credit and uses both Lloyds and National Westminster for its banking services. Incidentally, you need deposit only £1 to open this account.

Leeds Permanent aims to launch a personal cheque facility next month. At the moment it issues cheques worth more than £50 to a third party under its Pay and Save account and will undertake standing orders. Investors can use a Moneybox dispenser, which allows up to £200 a day to be withdrawn, and the benefit of a Yorkshire Bank Barclaycard.

Similarly, Bristol & West has a cash card for up to £250 a day and will write cheques, but does not undertake standing orders.

Nationwide plans better facilities from early May but its Flex account already available is of help. Although there is no cheque book, standing orders are accepted and organized through NatWest. For a minimum £1 opening, the rate is 6.25 per cent up to £499 and 7.75 per cent over £500. There is a cash card which pays up to £250 a day and can be used widely through Nationwide branches and also through Abbey National, American Express, Giro and other societies such as the Chelsea and the Foreman.

The Cashless account at Woolwich pays 6.5 per cent on all sums and allows both standing orders and direct debits. The society will write cheques through NatWest but there is no cheque book for the investor. The Woolwich cash card is the most generous in permitting up to £500 to be withdrawn daily, but smaller sums at other specified societies.

Personal cheque books are issued by several societies. Joint accounts are permitted two cheque books and two cards - which may be guarantee cards or cash cards, depending on the society. Look carefully at the rates as many depend on a minimum sum to be on the banking side, such as the first £350 of the initial £500 with the Alliance & Leicester.

If you become temporarily overdrawn, the charges may be much higher than on personal accounts with the clearing banks, such as the £1 per debit entry imposed by the Norwich & Peterborough on its Cash Counter account. Incidentally, it is offering a complimentary sports bag to all new investors on this account at the moment.

Town & Country charges 50p per debit entry if the account falls below £250 on its Moneywise account.

Several societies offer overdraft facilities on personal bank accounts. The National & Provincial and Britannia allow overdraft levels up to 15 times the monthly rate that is transferred from the society to the banking arm.

A further element when considering the interest rates is the date the society uses for its calculation.

The Chelsea and Town & Country credit investors the actual day the funds are paid in, although the cheques have not been cleared. Abbey National does not pay interest on the Cheque Saver account for three days to allow for it to clear any cheque deposits.

Of the societies reviewed, Chelsea gives the best interest rate at 9.25 per cent on funds of £10,000 and more. The next best are the Abbey National, Gateway and Town & Country with 8.75 per cent on more than £25,000, more than £10,000, and £25,000 and above, respectively.

One advantage investors using personal cheque books through building societies have over clearing bank customers is that, in addition to a guarantee card up to £50, the encashment card may often be

More are likely to team up with banks

more widely used. This can be of benefit to the traveller and weekend shopper. Banks restrict such use to their own branches but two society networks are developing, which increases this facility considerably.

As competition increases, it is likely that many more societies will team up with the banks to extend their services into personal cheque books - and the fact that the banks are happy with the societies' financial strength gives security way beyond the traditional customer references.

BUILDING SOCIETY

### BUILDING SOCIETIES OFFERING PERSONAL CHEQUE FACILITIES

| Society                | Account name   | Clearing bank                               | Minimum to open (£) | Cheque card | Rates  |
|------------------------|----------------|---|---------------------|-------------|--|
| Abbey National         | Cheque Saver   | Co-op                                       | 100                 | No          | 5.25% up to 2,499<br>7.85% 2,500-9,999<br>8.05% 10,000-24,999<br>8.75% over 25,000   |
| Alliance & Leicester   | Bank Safe Plus | Scotland                                    | 500                 | Yes         | 6.75% 500-2,499<br>7.75% 2,500-10,000<br>8.25% over 10,000                           |
| Birmingham Midshires   | Master Cheque  | TSB   | 500                 | Yes         | 6.75% 500-2,499<br>7.75% 2,500-9,999<br>8.25% over 10,000                            |
| Britannia              | Money Master   | Scotland                                    | 1                   | Yes         | 6.00%  |
| Chelsea                | Capital Share  | NatWest                                     | 1,000               | No          | 6.50% 1-4,999<br>9.00% 5,000-9,999<br>9.25% 10,000 and over                          |
| Gateway                | Patwinder      | Scotland                                    | None                | Yes         | 6.00% 1-999<br>8.25% 1,000-4,999<br>8.50% 5,000-9,999<br>8.75% 10,000 and over       |
| Norwich & Peterborough | Cash Counter   | Co-op                                       | 5                   | No          | 5.00% 1-2,499<br>8.00% 2,500-9,999<br>8.50% 10,000 and over                          |
| National & Provincial  | Budget         | North West Securities (Scotland subsidiary) | 1                   | Yes         | 5.75% 1-499**<br>7.75% 500-4,999**<br>8.25% 5,000-9,999**<br>8.75% 10,000 and over** |
| Town & Country         | Moneywise      | Co-op                                       | 250                 | Yes         | 4.75% 250-2,499<br>6.00% 2,500-9,999<br>8.25% 10,000-24,999<br>8.75% 25,000 and over |

\* No interest on first £50

\*\* No interest on funds transferred to bank

## TAX FREE SAVINGS THROUGH THE FAMILY BOND

Here's an investment that's so good, it's rationed by the Government to one per adult - with a maximum investment of £9 per month, or £100 a year.

It's the Family Bond from Family Assurance - and it's rationed because it's a savings plan totally free of all tax.

We're a friendly society and as such we invest your money tax free - you also receive the proceeds tax free - THAT'S A DOUBLE TAX FREE BENEFIT - and you get life cover as well!

Assuming a modest 13% annual growth - the maximum rate permitted for projecting tax free funds - the value of a joint husband and wife investment of £18 a month would be worth:

|                        |
|------------------------|
| £3,366 after 10 years  |
| £14,634 after 20 years |
| £50,434 after 30 years |

But the fact is that our investments have consistently produced average

growth rates of over 22% per annum since they were first established more than a decade ago.

Every adult should have a Family Bond. You can either pay £9 per month, or £100 a year, or you can invest a lump sum of £800.

You won't be the first to take advantage of this special type of investment. We already have nearly £200 million invested on behalf of over 160,000 investors.

Complete the coupon - or just give us a call - and our Marketing Department will be delighted to send you full details of the Family Bond and an application form. No salesman will call.

Family Assurance Society, FREEPOST 2816, BRIGHTON BN1 1ZW.

\*Unit prices can fall as well as rise. Registered under 1974 Friendly Societies Act, Reg. No. 939F.



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Please send me details of this remarkable, rationed investment.

(Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) Initials Surname

My address is

Postcode Just complete the coupon and send it to Family Assurance Society, FREEPOST 2816, BRIGHTON BN1 1ZW. No stamp needed. (NO SALESMAN WILL CALL)

TM 1/4

Initial offer price of 50p valid until April 24th.

# Investment has never looked so healthy.

## THE HEALTH FUND

Look at the FTA health and household index and you'll see why. It's shown a particularly healthy 10.41% gain over the past 7 years\* compared with only a 4.02% rise in the FT All Share Index.

Now the Health Fund, a new unit trust, has been set up to help you take advantage of this excellent trend. It's an investment you can feel good about in more ways than one.

The picture for health is promising worldwide. New medical developments are taking place the whole time. Shares in pharmaceutical companies in the US rose 31% in 1986, while worldwide they were up 47%.

Then, to keep the fund in good shape, we shall be regularly consulting the medical profession. We have a panel of doctors and surgeons who can give us a second opinion on the latest drugs, their competition, and the true value of each new development.

And, you know your money is being put to good use. New treatments for cancer, new antibiotics, antiviral agents, and biotechnology research are all areas we're interested in.

The Health Fund will be investing worldwide for maximum growth in companies that specialise in health-care and health products. For example, Boots, Glaxo, Beecham, Superdrug, Smith & Nephew and Johnson & Johnson.

Remember though that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

Find out more by phoning Freephone 0800 444 888 (24 hours). Or to invest (from £500) complete the coupon.

If you've got a healthy interest in making money, The Health Fund is just what the doctor ordered.

\*Source: S. G. Warburg, Jan. '87

\*from 11.80 to 21.187

### BUYING ORDER: THE HEALTH FUND

To: Medical Investment Ltd, 1 Sandys Row, London E17 1HW. (Freephone 0800 444 888 for further information.)

I would like to buy units in The Health Fund to the value of: £ (min £500), at the fixed offer price of 50p held until 24th April and enclose my: our cheque made payable to Medical Investments Ltd. The Managers reserve the right to close the fixed offer early. After the fixed price offer has been closed, units may be purchased at the current dealing price.

Mr/Ms/Miss (For names)

Surname

Address

Postcode

Signature

Date

(In the case of joint applications, all applicants must set out their names and addresses, and sign on a separate piece of paper.) This offer is not open to people under the age of 18, or to residents of the Republic of Ireland.



THE HEALTH FUND MEDICAL INVESTMENTS LTD

Managers: Medical Investments Ltd (Member of the Unit Trust Association). Investment Manager: Anthony Wheeler & Co. Ltd, Trustees: National Westminster Bank Limited. Charges: 5.4% on each initial purchase calculated on the offer price, thereafter 1.4% p.a. (plus VAT) of fund's value, deducted from the trust's income. The Trust Deed allows for a maximum charge of 1.5% p.a. The Managers will give unitholders at least 3 months' written notice of any change. Selling track units: Units can be sold back to us on any dealing day at not less than the bid price set on that day. Payment will normally be made within 7 days of receipt of a remitted unit certificate. Agents: Units may be purchased through qualified agents to whom a commission is payable at rates available on request. Prices: Units are being offered at 50p each and the estimated gross yield (equivalent to interest payable prior to deduction of tax) is 2.7%. Prices and yields are quoted daily in the national press. Income distribution: Income is payable on 24th June and 24th December each year. The first distribution will be 24th December 1987. Registered Office: 4 Sandys Row, London E17 1HW. Registered number: 20241941 England and Wales.



## FAMILY MONEY/7

## Plays that perform for you

**Aimez-vous Brecht?**  
Griff Rhys Jones, 16  
fellow actors, 10  
backstage, and assorted  
"angels" sincerely  
hope you do. For *Arturo*  
*Ui* is back in town, and  
after your money.  
**NICHOLAS COLE**  
reports

Following a highly successful  
tour of prime provincial the-  
atres, the gangster spectacle  
bursts open at the Queens  
Theatre on Monday evening  
for its first major West End  
revival in two decades.

Within hours of the final  
curtain at 10pm, the "angels"  
will weep or rejoice. They will  
know if talent, skill, hard work  
and their £20,000 share of the  
£10,000 capital cost has been  
for everything — or nothing.  
The press notices will see to  
that.

Should this seem to tempt  
fate by overrating the make-  
or-break power of London  
reviewers, it is no more or less  
than the realism applied by  
honest producers and experi-  
enced backers in the unique  
arena of theatre investment.

André Ptaszynski, a director  
of Pola Jones Associates, the  
production company behind  
*Ui*, is sanguine about it. But he  
adds: "The *Resistible Rise of*  
*Arturo Ui* is a piece of culture  
on Shaftesbury Avenue". It is  
not obviously commercial.  
People have to be told it's  
there and that it's very, very  
good.

He is not, of course, making  
a threat but the comparative  
point that backers and audi-  
ences are more easily drawn to  
unambiguous, light-hearted,  
critic-proof works such as  
*When Did You Last See*  
*Yor... Trousers?*, the  
Antrobus-Galton sex comedy  
opening at the Garrick on  
April 14.

*Trousers*, starring William  
Gaunt, is another runner from  
the Pola Jones stable and, like  
*Ui*, has been funded partly  
with money raised through a  
national newspaper advertise-  
ment. This infrequently used  
expedient brought in no more  
than £20,000 for *Ui*. The  
ultimate "saviour" enabling  
the production to proceed was  
£70,000 from Andrew Lloyd  
Webber's The Really Useful  
Company.

*Trousers*, in contrast, at-  
tracted £30,000 of its cap-

italization from a single  
advertisement.

The show "sold" to invest-  
ors on title alone, says  
Ptaszynski's co-producer,  
Geoffrey Campbell, who adds:  
"I was amazed by the re-  
sponse. People phoned from  
all over the country. Of those  
we sent prospectuses, the  
greater majority invested. We  
could have been  
oversubscribed."

Public readiness to risk  
money on the untiered artistic  
"products" of strangers, about  
whose track record they may  
know little or nothing, is no  
new phenomenon — Holly-  
wood cynics long ago coined  
the adage, "A backer is an  
angel, an angel is a sucker".  
Yet it is one that is observably  
growing.

This growth has undoubt-  
edly been stimulated by angel  
delights such as *Cats*, the long-  
running *No Sex Please -*  
*We're British*, *Run For Your*  
*Wife* and the musical *Evita*,  
such a colossal hit that it ran  
for more than 2,900 perfor-  
mances, was seen by four  
million people, and reportedly  
yielded £3,740 gross during its  
first year alone for every unit  
of £500 invested individually  
by 200 members of the public.  
The royalties were still rolling  
in a few weeks ago.

Attendant risk  
is enormous

Few of these so-called  
"suburban moguls" — identi-  
fied as housewives, trades-  
men, and bank clerks — had  
previously invested in show  
business. But what the popu-  
lar press reports did not  
highlight in their rose-tinted  
accounts of "how to back a  
play and still make a lot of  
money" is the enormous  
attendant risk.

Despite the absence of  
statistics, there is a uniformity  
in informal estimates, which  
suggests angels can expect to  
lose on approximately two-  
thirds or more of the produc-  
tions they back.

Canon Christopher Atkin-  
son, for example, disclosed in  
the *Investors Chronicle* last  
December that 30 of the 40  
West End productions in  
which he and a friend had  
jointly invested £33,000 since  
1978 had led to non-deductible  
losses on capital.

Overall they achieved a 5  
per cent "total anticipated  
gain" of £1,620. "Anyone for

I REALLY AM A THEATRE ANGEL  
— THE PLAY I BACKED DIED  
THE DEATH...

whom profit is the main factor  
should put their money  
elsewhere," Canon Atkinson  
advised.

One major incalculable  
which puts theatre investment  
in a class of its own was well  
illustrated by Lord Good-  
man's *bow* after seeing  
Schönberg's opera *Moses and*  
*Aaron*: "Too many Israelis  
on stage and not enough in the  
stalls."

Besides misjudgment of ap-  
peal, other imponderables that  
render any attempt at accurate  
forecasting difficult, and the  
City therefore eternally suspi-  
cious, include cast sickness,  
temperament clashes, terrorist  
threats, and even the weather.

"You either win — or write  
the money off," shrugs a  
backer who is an angel not  
only for the same reasons as  
others — love of theatre, and a  
desire to be involved, albeit at  
arm's length — but also be-  
cause he can afford to lose.

Producers follow William  
Blake's advice and never drive  
an angel from the door. Angels  
should heed Alexander Pope  
and not rush in without  
objective knowledge of and  
liking for a producer's work  
(you will be backing producer,  
not production). They must  
ask themselves several ques-  
tions. Is the author a "name"?  
Are the stars crowd-pullers? Is  
management on a straight fee,  
a percentage of the gross, or  
both? Is the administration  
top-heavy with wall-to-wall  
assistants?

For cost-efficiency and con-  
tinuity, established producers  
such as Michael Codron prefer  
a compact coterie of investors  
— nominally 23 to 30, say,  
although these may in turn

"front" smaller syndicates  
— each willing to put up per-  
haps £5,000 per production and  
to stay loyal through hits and  
misses.

The minimum individual  
stake is likely to be at least  
£500, and most productions  
"probably fail to recoup all the  
capital invested", says the  
Society of West End Theatre  
(Bedford Chambers, The Pi-  
azza, Covent Garden, London  
WC2E 8HQ, tel 01-836 0971),  
which makes available to  
members the names of those

Fear over Financial  
Services Act

who wish to be considered as  
potential investors.

A further reputable channel  
is the Theatre Investment  
Fund (18-20 Maiden Lane,  
London WC2E 7NH, tel 01-  
836 9245). The TIF has in-  
vested in nearly 200 produc-  
tions since being set up with  
partial Arts Council support in  
the mid-1970s, so satisfac-  
torily that a similar body has  
been suggested for funding  
provincial ventures, says the  
fund's splendid veteran direc-  
tor and secretary, Patrick Ide  
— 45 years in the business,  
"liv".

Theatre people now fear  
future investment could be  
affected by the 1986 Financial  
Services Act that they believe  
will outlaw circularization of  
potential investors by produc-  
tion companies, which com-  
monly provide agreements  
limiting investors' rights to  
participation in certain profits.  
The Department of Trade,  
however, doubts the provision  
applies.

Portfolio  
Gold

For readers who may have  
missed a copy of *The Times* this  
week, we repeat below the  
week's Portfolio price changes  
(today's are on page 25).

| Sec | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1   | +7  | +2  | -4  | -4  | +6  |     |     |
| 2   | +5  | +7  | -5  | -3  | +6  |     |     |
| 3   | +4  | +3  | -3  | -3  | +3  |     |     |
| 4   | +6  | +4  | -2  | -3  | +3  |     |     |
| 5   | +6  | +5  | -4  | -5  | +5  |     |     |
| 6   | +5  | +3  | -3  | -2  | +3  |     |     |
| 7   | +4  | +5  | -3  | -4  | +7  |     |     |
| 8   | +3  | +4  | -4  | -2  | +4  |     |     |
| 9   | +6  | +5  | -3  | -3  | +7  |     |     |
| 10  | +7  | +3  | -4  | -4  | +6  |     |     |
| 11  | +4  | +3  | -4  | -4  | +4  |     |     |
| 12  | +5  | +1  | -5  | -5  | +6  |     |     |
| 13  | +4  | +5  | -2  | -4  | +3  |     |     |
| 14  | +5  | +5  | -2  | -3  | +3  |     |     |
| 15  | +6  | +2  | -6  | -3  | +7  |     |     |
| 16  | +3  | +2  | -1  | -3  | +3  |     |     |
| 17  | +6  | +2  | -3  | -6  | +5  |     |     |
| 18  | +2  | +5  | -3  | -4  | +3  |     |     |
| 19  | +3  | +5  | -3  | -3  | +4  |     |     |
| 20  | +3  | +7  | -4  | -2  | +6  |     |     |
| 21  | +8  | +4  | -4  | -5  | +5  |     |     |
| 22  | +4  | +3  | -3  | -2  | +4  |     |     |
| 23  | +3  | +8  | -5  | -4  | +8  |     |     |
| 24  | +7  | +4  | -5  | -4  | +4  |     |     |
| 25  | +5  | +4  | -1  | -3  | +4  |     |     |
| 26  | +4  | +3  | -4  | -2  | +3  |     |     |
| 27  | +5  | +4  | -3  | -5  | +5  |     |     |
| 28  | +4  | +8  | -5  | -3  | +8  |     |     |
| 29  | +3  | +5  | -5  | -4  | +3  |     |     |
| 30  | +7  | +2  | -2  | -2  | +3  |     |     |
| 31  | +3  | +3  | -4  | -3  | +7  |     |     |
| 32  | +5  | +4  | -2  | -3  | +3  |     |     |
| 33  | +6  | +5  | -3  | -2  | +2  |     |     |
| 34  | +8  | +3  | -3  | -5  | +4  |     |     |
| 35  | +6  | +6  | -6  | -3  | +7  |     |     |
| 36  | +3  | +4  | -2  | -4  | +3  |     |     |
| 37  | +5  | +5  | -1  | -3  | +4  |     |     |
| 38  | +5  | +7  | -4  | -2  | +6  |     |     |
| 39  | +8  | +4  | -5  | -6  | +5  |     |     |
| 40  | +7  | +3  | -3  | -3  | +3  |     |     |
| 41  | +6  | +1  | -6  | -4  | +5  |     |     |
| 42  | +2  | +3  | -4  | -3  | +7  |     |     |
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GROWTH OUTLOOK



Law Report April 4 1987

## Board has duty to consult UDM

**Regina v British Coal Corporation (formerly National Coal Board), Ex parte Union of Democratic Mineworkers**

Before Lord Justice Russell and Mr Justice Otton (Judgment March 31)

The National Coal Board (now British Coal Corporation) was under a duty to consider whether it appeared to it that the Union of Democratic Mineworkers (UDM) represented a substantial proportion of its employees and, if it did so appear, to consult with the UDM as to the board's concluding with it an agreement providing for the establishment and maintenance of joint machinery for the settlement by negotiation of terms and conditions of employment not only of mine-workers but also of the board's weekly paid industrial staff and clerical workers, even though the UDM did not represent a substantial proportion of either industrial staff or clerical workers.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment, granting the UDM judicial review of the board's refusal to enter such consultations with the UDM in respect of industrial staff and clerical workers, by way of a declaration to the effect that the board was under a duty to consider whether the UDM appeared to be an organization representing a substantial proportion of the persons in its employment.

Section 46(1) of the Coal

Industry Nationalization Act 1946 provides: "It shall be the duty of the Board to enter into consultations with organizations appearing to them to represent substantial proportions of the persons in the employment of the Board, or of any class of such persons, as to the Board's concluding with those organizations agreements providing for the establishment and maintenance of joint machinery for (a) the settlement by negotiation of terms and conditions of employment . . . ; and (b) consultation on . . . (i) questions relating to the safety, health or welfare of such persons; (ii) the organization and conduct of the operations in which such persons are employed and other matters of mutual interest to the Board and such persons arising out of the exercise and performance by the Board of their functions."

Mr Igor Judge QC and Mr Peter Keenan for the UDM; Mr Conrad Dehn QC, Mr Charles Falconer and Mr Nicholas Underhill for the board.

LORD JUSTICE RUSSELL said that the membership of the UDM represented 17.4 per cent of the board's total workforce. Although about 20 per cent of mine-workers were members of the UDM, only 11.4 per cent of industrial staff and 5.2 per cent of clerical workers were.

The board had consulted the UDM and established a joint machinery in respect of the terms and conditions of employment of mine-workers, but refused to do so in respect of

industrial staff and clericals.

The board had contended that it was entitled to do that because section 46(1) of the 1946 Act created a discretion in the board, if it saw fit, only to enter into consultations with organizations which satisfied the first criterion therein, namely organizations which appeared to represent a substantial proportion of a particular class of its employees; and did not obligate it to enter into consultations with organizations which satisfied the second criterion, namely a substantial proportion of all the board's employees in respect of a class of employees of which it did not appear to represent a substantial proportion.

In his Lordship's judgment that disclosure of a misinterpretation of section 46. The section was mandatory and the board had to ask itself whether the UDM qualified for consultation under the first criterion; that was what the section said in plain language. If that criterion was satisfied the UDM would be entitled to be consulted under section 46(1)(a) and (b).

The board's evidence was that it had never considered whether

the UDM did satisfy the first criterion, and his Lordship accepted that it had not done so.

It had nevertheless contended that relief should not be granted since, even if it were to conclude that the UDM satisfied the first criterion, there was no realistic prospect of it reaching an agreement with the UDM in respect of the terms and conditions of employment of industrial staff and clericals even if it entered the consultations which would then be required by the section.

Although the granting of relief would not guarantee that the board would conclude that the UDM represented a substantial proportion of the total workforce or that it would reach any agreement with the UDM in respect of industrial staff or clericals, his Lordship was by no means certain that the board's pessimistic prognosis was justified, and relief should be granted: see *R v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Brentham Borough Council* ([1982] 2 QB 593, 654).

Mr Justice Otton delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Hopkin & Sons, Mansfield; Mr R. V. Cowles.

### Bus fares to be set at payable level

**Regina v Merseyside Passenger Transport Authority, Ex parte Crossville Motor Services Ltd and Another**

The duty under section 9A(6)(a) of the Transport Act 1968 (as inserted by the Transport Act 1985) not to inhibit competition required a regard to fare scales on commercial bus services comparable with a subsidised service.

Furthermore, "public transport requirements" within the meaning of section 9A(1) were requirements of the public to travel and to pay a fare which they could reasonably afford. The requirements in part depended on local social conditions.

An assessment of what those requirements were was for the passenger transport authority whose members were responsible to an electorate and whose decision could only be impugned in court on the ground of irrationality. No such charge was made in the instant case and the fact that some travellers on a subsidised route could afford to pay more for their journeys was immaterial.

Mr Justice Mann so held in the Queen's Bench Division on April 3 in dismissing an application by Crossville Motor Services Ltd and North Western Road Car Company Ltd for judicial review of decisions of the Merseyside Passenger Transport Authority and the Merseyside Passenger Transport Executive.

### Understating case gives no advantage

**Practice Note (Time Estimates)**

Under-estimation of the length of a case did not secure any advantage in the listing of the case. Mr Justice Mann observed in the Queen's Bench Division on April 3 with the approval of Lord Justice Watkins.

HIS LORDSHIP said that Practice Direction: Crown Office List (The Times February 4, 1987; [1987] 1 WLR 232) prescribed the arrangements which as from March 2, 1987 applied to the listing of cases in the Crown Office List. Part B of that list contained cases ready to be heard. Part D was the expedited list. The pressure on both parts was great. Particularly so when the case was to be heard by the single judge.

In regard to both parts it was the responsibility of counsel's clerks to inform the head clerk in writing of counsel's time estimate for a case and of any variation in an estimate previously given. Dealing with the list was critically dependent on the reasonable accuracy of estimates. Plainly precision was impossible but there had been a number of cases recently where the estimate could only be described as ill-judged.

In the interests of the despatch of business, close attention had to be paid to the reality of an estimate. His Lordship emphasized, lest there should be a better to the contrary, that under-estimation secured no advantage in the listing of a case.

SNOOKER: FIERY PLAYER FACES AN ARBITRATOR

## Day of judgement has come for Higgins

By Andrew Longmore

The features of Gavin Lightman QC are more those of a favourite uncle than those of a Judge Jeffreys, but either way they will be well known to Alex Higgins after this weekend. Lightman has been appointed by the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) to serve as arbitrator to hear the charges brought by them against Higgins at an independent disciplinary tribunal tomorrow. He is judge and jury, having total control over the form of the hearing and sole power of judgement and sentence.

Lightman, who has chambers in the peaceful prosperity of Lincoln's Inn Fields, is no stranger to the limelight nor to the world of the green baize. He can number among his more celebrated clients Mrs Croxman, Arthur Scargill and the Playboy Club. February, 1986, he heard Silvio Francisco's appeal against a £6,000 fine imposed by the board at an earlier tribunal.

Under the approving eyes of his father, whose picture hangs on the wall of his room, Lightman has built up one of

the most successful commercial litigation practices in the bar. Legally, Higgins is in expert hands, which is just as well, for one puff from Lightman could blow the Hurricane away for quite a while.

The main charge to be presented to Lightman by the



Higgins has expert counsel WPBSA concerns an allegation by the UK Tennis championship tournament director, Paul Hatherrell, that he was butted and verbally abused by the Irishman during the tournament last November. The tribunal will also hear

complaints by three tournament referees regarding alleged incidents at the Dulux Open last year, and by another player, Cliff Thorburn.

Lightman's unique power to dispense "instant justice" of one sort or another on Higgins might cause some eyebrows to be raised, particularly as those bringing the charges have also appointed the head of the tribunal. Higgins's lawyers have been consulted about the appointment but they have no right of veto if the man chosen is not to their liking.

Both inside and outside the sporting world, the independent arbitrator is becoming an increasingly popular recourse for settling disputes. Like the guillotine, it is quick, informal and, unless there is some form of procedural problem, final.

If Higgins is found guilty under the WPBSA code, the tribunal has the power to fine, suspend, deduct points, suspend him from one or more tournaments, or, at the worst, recommend his expulsion from the association. A ban would put Higgins out of the world championships, which begin on April 15.

### HOCKEY

### Young talent lured by GB training camp

By Sydney Friskin

Because of the Great Britain training weekend, some of England's more talented young players will miss the junior divisional tournament at Sherborne College, near Yeovil, today and tomorrow.

Simon Hazlett, of the Combined Services, and Dominic Camilleri, of the East, will be with the Great Britain squad at Lilleshaal.

The six teams at Sherborne are divided into two groups. North Combined Services and Midlands making up Group A, and East, South and West forming Group B. As usual the winners and runners-up from each group will qualify for the semi-finals tomorrow.

Indian Gymkhana need all six points from their two remaining matches to win the premier division title in the McEwans Lager South League. Slough's hopes of snatching a premier division title in the Pizza Express London League depend on their winning their last two matches.

### Tough test for GB

By Joyce Whitehead

Great Britain are about to embark on a very important week. They are taking part with Ireland, The Netherlands, South Korea, Spain and the United States in an international tournament from Sunday to Saturday at Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh. At this tournament they must do well if they are to qualify for the 1988 Olympic Games.

The other countries already have a track record, so their international results count. Great Britain, however, come together for only a spell after the World Cup tournaments in which England, Scotland and Wales play separately. Consequently, Britain's few matches must all be good enough to count for their track record and they have only one more chance after this when they play in another international tournament in The Netherlands last June.

The Great Britain squad, coached by Denis Hay, have been training since February. The team which was successful in the USA Classic last November is unchanged except for Margaret Medlow, the Welsh captain, who wished to retire. Caroline Rule has regained her place.

Barbara Hambly, the ex-England captain, is again the skipper of the side, which draws nine players from England, five from Scotland and one each from Northern Ireland and Wales. They will play five matches starting on Sunday against The Netherlands, which no doubt will be their hardest match. Ireland have just won the home countries triple crown by playing fast constructive hockey and the United States were beaten by England at Wembley. But in all their efforts to win they must surely want to make amends for the travesty of a match they played together at the World Cup in Amsterdam last year.

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It is not one of my favourite circuits," Thorpe said. "It is built in the side of a hill and there are two dozen jumps on every lap. The course is normally done hard though there was rain there earlier this week."

Thorpe and the Kawasaki rider, Kurt Nicoli, from Essex, head a handful of British riders in each of the two 40-minute races. The main opposition to a British victory is expected to come from Georges Jobe, of Belgium, who has finished second and fourth in the World Series and, like Thorpe, has one of the latest Japanese production Hondas.

### RUGBY LEAGUE

## Wigan are ready and waiting for trophy

By Keith Macklin

Rugby League officials will take the Stones Bitter championship trophy to Central Park, Wigan, tomorrow ready to present it to the new champions after the match with Featherstone Rovers. It will be one of the shocks of the season if Rovers, already doomed to relegation, upset rampant Wigan, who have been swamping all opposition.

A crowd of 30,000 is expected to see Wigan turn on the heat, with Elly Hanley, who has scored 51 tries this season, going further towards the club record of 62 tries in a season set by wing, Johnny Ring, in 1928.

Wigan's success has caused considerable annoyance to St Helens, who are resigned to finishing no better than runners-up. A crowd approaching 30,000 is expected at Central Park on Good Friday for the derby game between the two clubs.

While Wigan go through the ritual of winning the title tomorrow, St Helens and Warrington fight over second place, with the right to home advantage in the premiership play-off at stake. St Helens, despite injuries, must pull out their best form to beat off the challenge of a reviving Leeds, while Warrington may find things tougher than imagined at Bradford Northern.

David Hobbs, the Oldham and Great Britain forward, has been transferred to Bradford in exchange for the prop forward, Ian Sheppard, and £30,000.

### MOTO-CROSS

## Tough start to Thorpe's title defence

The world champion, Dave Thorpe, of Britain, starts the defence of his 500cc title in Spain tomorrow at the man-made circuit near Guadalajara, north-east of Madrid. The Berkshireman has not won on his visits in 1984 and 1985.

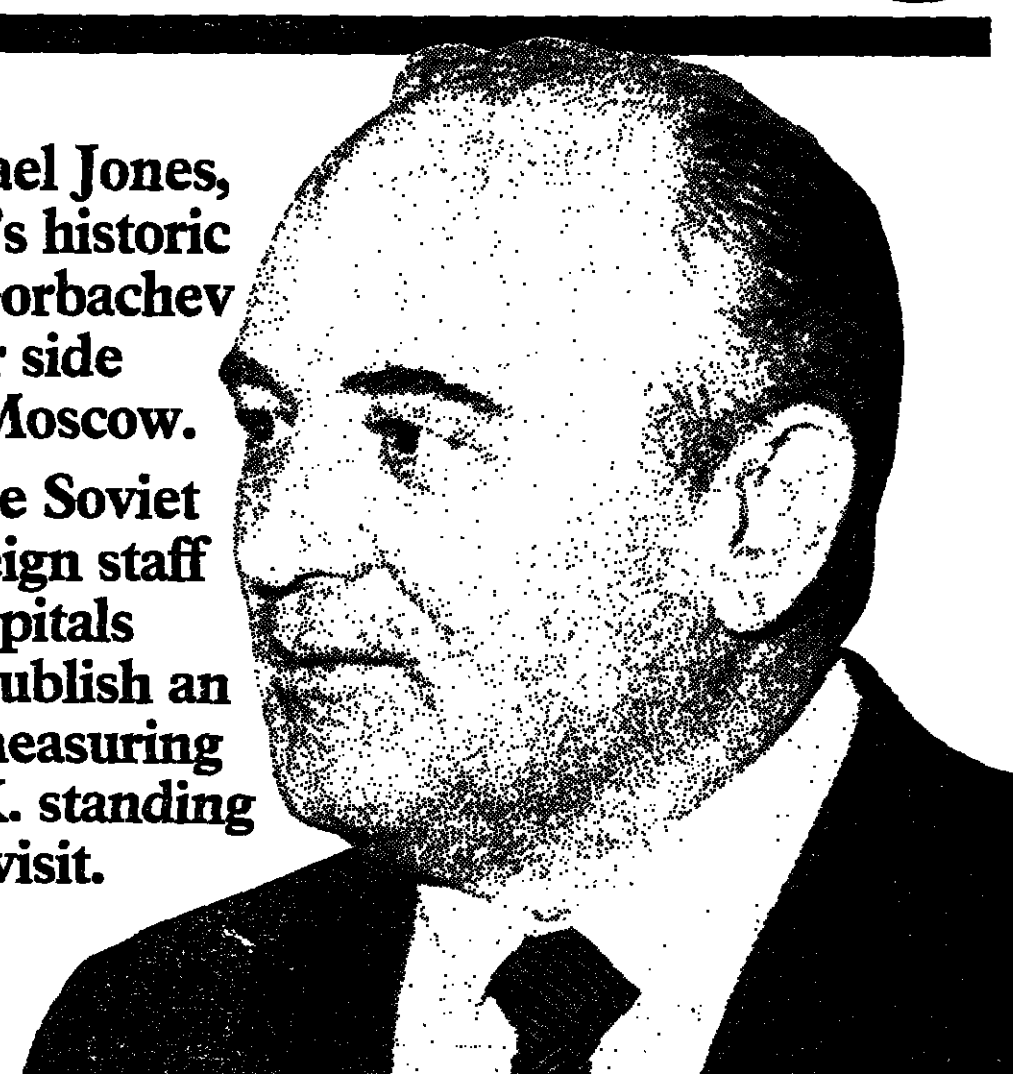
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# THE BEST OF ENEMIES



Political Editor, Michael Jones, assesses Mrs Thatcher's historic meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev and reveals the lighter side of Maggie's mission to Moscow. Georgiy Arbatov gives the Soviet perspective. Plus our foreign staff report the views from capitals around the world, and we publish an exclusive MORI poll measuring Mrs Thatcher's U.K. standing following her visit.



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RUGBY UNION: SCOTLAND ARE POISED FOR TENTH TRIPLE CROWN AND A CALCUTTA CUP TRIUMPH AT TWICKENHAM

## Scottish skills and mobility afford England little hope

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

It would be excusable if England wanted only to bury the past two months today and go back to October when their squad came together to play Japan and hopes for the five nations championship remained high. To a degree they can do so because 11 of the team that beat Japan are together again to try and wrest both the Calcutta Cup and a degree of self-respect from the Save and Prosper international with Scotland at Twickenham.

February and March have brought only heartache, three championship defeats, bad weather and obloquy for England. Not so Scotland, whose confidence could scarcely be higher. Defeat with honour against France — already this season's champions — and success against two of the three home countries carrying them to the verge of a tenth triple crown.

Whatever Colin Deans may say, his country are favourites to be runners-up to France. "For a match like this I'd still make England favourites, in spite of results up to now," the Scotland captain said yesterday. "We've got their backs to the wall and could be as dangerous as a cornered animal. We're expecting our hardest game of the season."

Such remarks are as much for the benefit of his own team, 11 of whom shared in the monumental drubbing of England at Murrayfield last season and who have watched today's opponents stagger from one disaster to another this season. As late as yesterday England were still not entirely certain about their final line-up, since no decision will be made on Jamie Salmon's ankle injury until this morning.

Yet it remains a two-horse race, likely to be played in indifferent weather. In such circumstances the best of teams make mistakes — the trick is to be able to cover up for them on the one side, or take advantage of them on the other.

## Pride is the only thing left for two teams to salvage

By Gerald Davies

Originally, this game was one of two which would have raised the curtain on the season and as such could have sprung Celtic hopes to achieve something in the championship. Now, however, it is only the safety curtain which comes down as the feasting teams have moved on elsewhere.

Wales and Ireland, who play at the Arms Park this afternoon, have only a solitary victory to their names, both of them against England. All that is left to salvage is something of pride, personality and performance.

There is, though, the matter of establishing an early foothold in the lower reaches, beneath the snow line, before the more rarefied peaks of the World Cup arrive. Wales and Ireland are due to meet each other in Wellington in May in their opening match of that event.

Against France there was much strength in defence, out of which grew some honour.

### TODAY'S TEAMS AT CARDIFF

| Wales           | Ireland          |
|-----------------|------------------|
| M A Wyatt 15    | H P MacNeill 15  |
| I C Evans 14    | T M Ringland 14  |
| J A Devereux 13 | B J Mullin 13    |
| M G Ring 12     | M J Kiernan 12   |
| A M Hadley 11   | K D Crossan 11   |
| J Davies 10     | P M Dean 10      |
| R N Jones 9     | M T Bradley 9    |
| J Whitfoot 1    | P A Orr 1        |
| W J James 2     | H T Harbison 2   |
| S W Blackmore 3 | D C Fitzgerald 3 |
| W P Moriarty 6  | P M Matthews 6   |
| S Sutton 4      | D G Lennihan 4   |
| R L Norster 5   | W A Anderson 5   |
| R G Collins 7   | N J Carr 7       |
| P T Davies 8    | B J Spillane 8   |

REPLACEMENTS: 16 G M Webb (Bridgend), 17 D P Fitzgerald (St Mary's), 18 J A Gales (Aberystwyth), 19 A Buchanan (Llanelli), 20 S Davies (South Wales RFC), 21 G J Roberts (Cardiff).

other. England have shown little ability to do the latter thus far but there is a massive awareness among England players that they have been portrayed in an indifferent light and this is their chance to reverse that.

England's long-suffering supporters — who will note that the kick-off time is 2.30, even this late in the season — would love to see what England's backs can achieve. So much depends upon Richard Harding and Peter Williams, the new cap, hitting it off. Harding was the last man in from training at the Bank of England ground yesterday and must be aware that he could go to the World Cup in Australia as number one scrum half, a remarkable change in the for-

### TODAY'S TEAMS AT TWICKENHAM

| England         | Scotland          |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| W M H Rose 15   | A G Hastings 15   |
| M E Harrison 14 | M D F Duncan 14   |
| S J Halliday 13 | K W Robertson 13  |
| J L B Salmon 12 | G R T Baird 12    |
| R Underwood 11  | I Tait 11         |
| P N Williams 10 | J Y Rutherford 10 |
| R M Harding 9   | R J Laidlaw 9     |
| P A G Randall 1 | D M B Sole 1      |
| B C Moore 2     | C T Deans 2       |
| G S Pearce 3    | I G Miller 3      |
| J P Hall 6      | J Jeffrey 6       |
| N C Redman 4    | D B White 4       |
| S Bainbridge 5  | I A M Paxton 5    |
| G W Rees 7      | F Calder 7        |
| D Richards 8    | J R Beattie 8     |

REPLACEMENTS: 16 J Webb (Bristol), 17 C R Andrew (Nottingham), 18 D Holmes (Sheffield), 19 A Smeaton (Worcester), 20 J Pryor (Worcester), 21 P J Winterbottom (Huddersfield).

tunes of the phlegmatic Bristol player, aged 33.

Certainly England would do well to test the central pairing of Keith Robertson and Roger Baird, two of the four wings in Scotland's three-quarters. It is Baird's first international appearance at centre, despite 25 previous caps, and he is one who prefers to take attacks from the side; his swift action in broken play which awards very much with the overall Scottish approach.

There is no need to restate Scottish mobility and footbalting qualities. They remain vulnerable at the lineout and Derrick Grant, their coach, seeks more from them in the way of scrummaging. It will be interesting to see young David Sole, who has per-

formed exceptionally for his country and Bath this season, against Gary Pearce, who joins Fran Cotton as England's most-capped prop today.

There is, equally, no need to extol further the virtues of John Rutherford and Roy Laidlaw; around such experienced partnerships are great teams built. They can be trusted, invariably, to do the right thing at the right time; that is another trick this England team has yet to learn. Moreover they have the knowledge and the confidence to attempt the unexpected. "There is nothing more dangerous than a confident back division," Ian McGeechan, Scotland's assistant coach, said this week. "They are willing to try things."

Despite many suggestions to the contrary, England have a mobile pack which they lack the same footbalting qualities as the Scots and the same conviction. To stop the Scottish back row rampaging about the field they will have to tackle them at source, which they did well against France; then they will have to get up and tackle some more.

They can expect a decent return from the set pieces where the return of Dean Richards at No 8 will take some of the pressure off John Hall, the pack leader. The measure of true England have in Williams at stand-off half is shown by the fact that he will run the back division while Mike Harrison, the captain, will take the broader view from the wing.

England's World Cup party will be announced on Wednesday (Wales, incidentally, plan to announce theirs on Monday). There are places still to be won and though they may not deny Scotland today — which would represent their third championship whitewash, the others having come in 1972 and 1976 — England can offer a ray of hope for the future, even at this eleventh hour.

## The Exiles select new leader

By Chris Than

Tim Paterson-Brown will captain London Scottish next season after professional reasons forced the incumbent, Jeremy Macklin, to decline to stand for a third term. Traditionally it is the vice-captain who takes over the captaincy following a consensus vote. This year, however, the vice-captain, Stuart Irvine, lost his first-team place to the captaincy issue became a heavily contested affair between three candidates: Paterson-Brown, Lindsey Renwick and Andrew Cushing.

The new captain will face the difficult task of restoring both the morale and the fighting spirit of the Exiles after one of their poorest seasons (lost 14, won 11, drawn 2, relegated to Merit Table B).

In line with an old practice, it is the privilege of the captain to nominate the coach of the club, according to the club secretary, John Lawrence.

### SAVE AND PROSPER INTERNATIONAL FOR THE CALCUTTA CUP

England v Scotland (at Twickenham, 2.30)

Wales v Ireland (at Cardiff, 2.30)

JOHN SMITH'S MERIT TABLE A

Bristol v Harlequins

Blackheath v Liverpool (14.0)

Northampton v Huddersfield

Birmingham v Oxford

Harlequins v Gloucester

London Irish v Bath (11.0)

London Welsh v Swansea (11.30)

Metropolitan Police v Bournemouth

Nottingham v Wasps

Nuneaton v Walsley

Onell v Wasps of Scotland

Plymouth v Cheltenham

Sale v Wakefield

Sheffield v Hull and E.R.

Waterloo v Leicester

West Hartlepool v Bradford and Bingley

TANDEN COMPUTERS SEVEN COUNTRIES

ONELL v Wasps of Scotland

POSTER BOARD MIDDLESEX MERIT TABLE

CONTRACTORS SEVEN COUNTRIES

ONELL v Wasps of Scotland

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Baird: playing his 26th game for Scotland but first at centre

## Devereux named in student team

By David Hands

John Devereux, who plays today in Wales's Five Nations championship match, has been named to make his first appearance for the Welsh Students in Cardiff next Wednesday. If he does so, there will be a sign of relief from the student selectors who have picked him three times before, only for Devereux to withdraw through injury.

He will clash with another international, Fran Cotton, in the English team which was announced last week. The Welsh will be led by Simon Griffin who captained Oxford University to victory in the University match last December and who is joined in the pack by another Oxford forward, Chris Crane, from Pontypool.

The Welsh will be encouraged by the experience of David Evans and Richard Williams at half back, both of whom have played first-class rugby this season for Cardiff and Gloucester respectively. Simon Hill, from London University, is another Welsh player in good form at full back.

It has been confirmed that the

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### ATHLETICS

## Why Nenow puts Hemel before riches in the US

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

Bringing American road runners, even top-class ones, over to run against the British is usually like throwing Daniel into the lions' den without the extenuating circumstances. But, despite the lean and hungry looks of Jack Buckner, Steve Jones, Dave Clarke, Tim Hutchings and Carl Thackeray, transatlantic visitors Arturo Barrios and Mark Nenow might just be fast enough to escape the jaws of defeat by the Britons in this afternoon's A.A.A. 10 kilometre road championship, sponsored by Kodak, at Hemel Hempstead.

Barrios, a Mexican who lives in Colorado, has been undefeated at all distances up to a marathon in the United States for the last two years. But Nenow, who beat Barrios to the \$50,000 first prize in the Baltimore 10 kilometre race two months ago, won when the Scot, Liz Lynch, won the women's prize, also has the advantage of previous visits here.

Nenow admitted yesterday: "American road runners tend to live in a bit of a vacuum. They see road racing in the US as an end in itself. They're treated well and made to feel more important than they are. Then they come to Europe and get ripped apart. It's quite an eye-opener."

Nenow was not exactly ripped apart when he ran last year, but

his late surge through to third place hardly constituted a thorn in the side of the young lions, Steve Harris and Jon Solly. But it did help Nenow reconsider his approach to racing and he has enlisted the help of Alan Storey, Britain's national men's marathon coach, in planning his season.

Nenow is one of the few Americans prepared to eschew the lucrative road season in time to prepare for the track. "This is my last road race, then I'll be training for a world championship 10,000 metres in Rome."

And he will find Barrios there, too. The Mexican is as aware of the importance of track running, despite his road successes, however, he is not ignorant of the magnitude of his task today. "I didn't like to say so at the time, it would have been like making excuses, but I was ill in Baltimore when I lost to Mark."

"When I got home, my doctor told me I was crazy to run, even for a million bucks. But I feel better now. I won a 15k in Florida three weeks ago, and I wouldn't have come here if I didn't think I could do well."

Mike Musyoki, the Kenyan, who beat Jones in the Great North Run last year, has also come to win, and the visitors' chances are improved by the absence of Harris and Solly, who have both been injured.

### BOXING

## Fears growing for sluggish Leonard

From Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent, Las Vegas

Only last week, in a makeshift gym in the Inter-Continental hotel in Hilton Head, South Carolina, everything was going sweetly for Sugar Ray Leonard in his preparations to meet Marvin Hagler, the world middleweight champion, at the Caesars Palace stadium on Monday. Leonard looked a million dollars — or was it \$12 million?

This week in Las Vegas, with the big day rushing towards the challenger, who retired more than four years ago after undergoing an operation to repair a detached retina, things have started to go sour. People are asking too many questions about that eye — and about the wisdom of testing it against the fearsome champion, unbeaten in 11 years. Even the governor of Nevada was asked to step in.

The objections are coming from the medical board of the Nevada State Athletic Commission itself, the body sanctioning the fight. The medical board want to call in Dr Vincent Giannino, a New York ophthalmologist, internationally recognized and a specialist in boxing injuries to the eye. The commission have refused.

Instead, Dr Louis Angioletti, the retina expert who advised Leonard's eye was fit enough to go into battle, was sent for. He cleared Leonard again, saying that the scar tissues of a repaired

retina "have greater tensile strength than an untouched retina". This view is contested by a noted ophthalmologist from Southern California, who said: "Once the retina is tacked back, there is a higher probability of it coming off."

In Leonard's one and only public work-out, in the Golden Gloves gym at Cushman Field, downtown, the former double world champion made hard work of Quincy Taylor, a club boxer from Texas. Leonard looked slow and unsure of himself. It was not the Leonard of old, whose movements alone used to hold watchers spellbound.

One ringsider observed: "If you could cover up his head you would not know he was Sugar Ray Leonard." As he moved flat-footed (by his standards) his blows seemed heavy and ponderous. The clinch was messy. It might have been better if instead of going for bulk he had stayed light for speed.

As one watched there was an irresistible need to find excuses and to keep hoping that the real Leonard would emerge on the night. It could be that it was too close to the big day to start trading blows with a hired hand — after all, the eye injury had happened in the first place in the gym. It could be that he was holding back. That's right, you could not trust gym workouts.

### BOWLS

## Impressive schedule for Allcock

By Gordon Allan

Tony Allcock, the world indoor singles and pairs champion, has qualified for the last 32 in three events in the Prudential English national championships, which begin at Hartlepool today.

In the singles, which he won two years ago, he has been drawn against Stan Burton, of Darlington, in the first round. He is also playing in the pairs with Mike Jordan (Cotswold), and in the fours, which he won last year with Alan Gamble, Paul Nelmes, and Jordan.

David Bryant, who has won the singles title nine times, plays Gary Little (Cambridge Park, Twickenham). Other strong contenders are John Bell, Gary Harrington, runner-up to Allcock in 1985, John Ottaway, John Evans, Noel Burrows, and Andy Thomson.

Bryant and David Rhys Jones, the pairs champions in 1982, have come through again, along with Gary Smith and Andy Thomson, who were last year's winners. Thomson has a third string to his bow in the triples, which he won in 1981.

The fours field contains, besides Allcock, a battery of international skips: Mal Hughes, Peter Line, Tom Buller, Wynne Richards, Roy Cutts, and David Cutler.

The championships start with the under-25 singles, progress through fours, triples, pairs and singles, in that order, and end with the Liberty Trophy final between Norfolk and Middlesex.

### MOTOR SPORT

## Tyrrell picks Palmer

By John Blonsden

Jonathan Palmer has been contracted to drive the second Daimler Tyrrell-Ford in the British Grand Prix, on April 12 alongside Philippe Streiff. It takes over the position vacated by Martin Brundle, who is now Palmer's replacement in the Zakpact team.

At this stage, Palmer's commitment to Tyrrell is confined to the season's opening race, but he is also one of the three remaining contenders for a place with the team for the other 15 races in the 1987 world championship calendar. Johnny Dumfries, who made his grand prix debut last year with Lotus, and the Italian driver, Emanuele Pirro, a newcomer to Formula One, are the other drivers under consideration.

Ken Tyrrell has long been an admirer of Palmer's driving skill, but he has never hidden his dislike of his drivers taking part in other forms of motor racing while under contract to him, and Palmer has already been engaged by Richard Lloyd to drive his Porsche in world sports car championship events this year.

Guy Ligier, leader of the Ligier team, flew to the United States earlier this week to discuss engine supply with Megatron, the company which supports the Arrows team. Ligier, who are without power after their recent split with Alfa Romeo, are hoping to secure a deal to allow them to be ready for Imola on May 3.

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## SAVE & PROSPER

THE INVESTMENT HOUSE



RACING: ENCOURAGING GOLD CUP RUN SUGGESTS 1986 WINNER IS APPROACHING PEAK FORM AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME

# West Tip to scale Aintree heights again

## Hill takes famous fences in his stride

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

West Tip is my selection to win today's Seagram Grand National at Liverpool, as he has been for the last two years. I shall always believe that he would have won in 1985 had he not been caught out by Becher's second time around because he was cruising in the lead at the time.

Ridden with greater restraint by Richard Dunwoody last year, West Tip justly claimed his place in Liverpool's Hall of Fame.

Some horses love the course; others take an instant dislike to it. Cast in the same mental mould as Red Run, West Tip clearly enjoys it.

I have the greatest confidence in trainer Michael Oliver's ability to deliver the goods again, always assuming that luck, which is more important at Aintree than anywhere else, is on his side. "He's in top nick, primed to the minute," was my latest encouraging bulletin from the trainer.

When interviewed by George Rae in *The Times* earlier this year, Christopher

Mordaunt, the Jockey Club's senior National Hunt handicapper, was asked if he could offer any advice to those of us in search of the likely winner of what is one of racing's greatest lotteries even though he himself is precluded from betting by his position.

"Be guided by Aintree form: go for a horse which jumps well and is a proven stayer, and concentrate on those horses which show their best form on good ground as the going is rarely deep at Liverpool," was his reply.

To my way of thinking he could have been talking about West Tip.

Corbiere also fits neatly into that category but on ground that will probably ride good to soft, just as it did a year ago, I must prefer West Tip, whose recent run in the Cheltenham Gold Cup was encouraging to say the least.

It pointed to him reaching his peak at precisely the right time again and I take him to win again, this time from a group comprising Corbiere, Lean Ar Aghaidh, Classified and Plundering.

The winner in 1983 and third twice subsequently,

Corbiere is, like West Tip, a Liverpool horse. Lean Ar Aghaidh, jumps as if he has springs in his heels and trainer Stan Mellor regards him as his best prospect since Royal Mail finished third in 1981. What worries me about Lean Ar Aghaidh is the long run-in from the last fence, a reservation which also applies to Classified.

It found him out last year after he was in third place jumping the last, and even if ridden with greater restraint by Steve Smith Eccles, Classified still seems unlikely to last it out.

On the other hand last year's Whitbread Gold Cup winner, Plundering, should be running on what is good to soft, just as it did a year ago, provided the ground does not deteriorate too much in the run up to the race.

On a point of handicapping, Dark Ivy is undoubtedly the best treated horse in the field now that the recent Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, The Thinker, does not run.

Dark Ivy has improved so much recently in the care of Gordon Richards, who has previously won the National

with Lucius and Halo Dandy, that he has been given only 7lb less than West Tip in the Whitbread. Yet here he is getting 21lb from him with only 10 lb more on his back.

No wonder jockey Phil Tuck rates his chance even higher than before he rode Mr

on trust. If he takes to it he will be a danger to one and all. Top weight will be carried by the respective American and Czechoslovak challengers, Bewley's Hill and Valencia, who have each turned in top-class staying performances in their native countries but in Little Poivre from John Edwards' successful Ross-on-Wye stable.

The Liverpool programme begins as usual with the Captain Morgan Aintree Chase, run over two miles on the Mildmay course. Kathleen and Little Bay have each won it twice and they are both in the field again.

In this instance, though, I prefer Pearlyman because Kathleen Lad has not raced since November while Little Bay had a particularly heavy fall at Cheltenham last month in the Queen Mother Champion Chase which Pearlyman went on to win.

In that race they all carried the same weight but in receipt of 18lb now Little Bay cannot be ruled out.

On the corresponding occasion last year Aintree excelled when beating the champion

burder. See You Then, to win the Sandeman Aintree Hurdle. He was ridden then by the experienced Jimmy Duggan and now much will depend on whether Jacqui Oliver can get as much as he did out of her parents' eight-year-old.

In fairness to her it must be said that she has already won the Mecca Hurdle on him at Sandown this season besides finishing second in the Waterford Crystal Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham more recently.

Even with that redoubtable competitor J-J-Henry in the field Townley Stone will never have a better chance of winning the White Satin Chase, which is restricted to horses who have not won a chase worth £6,000 for two years.

However, the nap is reserved for The West Awake in the Champagne Mumm Novices' Hurdle.

Blinders had the desired effect on Mrs Christopher Heath's good but lazy six-year-old at Cheltenham when he romped away with the Sun Alliance Novices' Hurdle and he is much fancied by his trainer Oliver Sherwood to take this prize too.

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### Guide to our in-line racecard

103 (12) 6-0432 TIMESFORM 74 (CLIFF, F.G.S.) (Mrs D Robinson) 5 Mar 9-10-0. B West (4) 58  
Racecard number. Draw in brackets. See figure 103 (12) 6-0432 TIMESFORM 74 (CLIFF, F.G.S.) (Mrs D Robinson) 5 Mar 9-10-0. B West (4) 58  
Brought down. Stopped up. R-ridden. G-good. S-soft. Good to soft. Heavy. Owner in horse's name. Days since last racing. (B-brackets. Trainer. Age and sex. Weight. Distance. D-distance. C-course and distance. W-winner. Handicapper's rating.

3.20 SEAGRAM GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (255,152: 4m 4f) (40 runners)

See facing page

4.10 WHITE SATIN CHASE (25,699: 2m 4f; Mildmay course) (12 runners)

401 400100 OUR FUN 4 (D.F.S.) (Mr J. Gifford) 10-11-11. Mr T. Gifford 73  
412 142224 TOWNLEY STONE 17 (D.F.S.) (Mrs M. Thompson) 10-11-11. Mr B. Thompson 59  
413 141224 ALTY CLER 12 (D.F.S.) (Mrs M. Thompson) 10-11-11. Mr B. Thompson 59  
414 242220 CELTIC MAULEY 14 (D.F.S.) (Mrs M. Thompson) 10-11-11. Mr B. Thompson 59  
415 400000 CNOX NA CUILE 22 (D.F.S.) (Mrs M. Thompson) 10-11-11. Mr B. Thompson 59  
416 400000 DANCE OF LIFE 40 (P) (Mrs M. Thompson) 10-11-11. Mr B. Thompson 59  
417 112121 LITTLE BAY 11 (D.F.S.) (Mrs M. Thompson) 10-11-11. Mr B. Thompson 59  
418 34-1001 KNOCKED CASTLE 45 (D.F.S.) (Mrs M. Thompson) 10-11-11. Mr B. Thompson 59  
419 412-102 NEWLINE CONNECTION 133 (D.F.S.) (Mrs M. Thompson) 10-11-11. Mr B. Thompson 59  
420 412-102 NEWLINE CONNECTION 133 (D.F.S.) (Mrs M. Thompson) 10-11-11. Mr B. Thompson 59  
421 412-102 NEWLINE CONNECTION 133 (D.F.S.) (Mrs M. Thompson) 10-11-11. Mr B. Thompson 59  
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● Figures in brackets indicate three-year Grand National form. E.G. Classified was third last year, fifth in 1985 and did not run in 1984.











